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THE

COUNTY OF WILLIAMS

A History of Williams County, Ohio, from the Earliest Days, with Special Chapters on Various Subjects, Including Each of the Different Townships; Also a Biographical Department.

BY

WILLIAM HENRY SHINN

MADISON, WIS.
NORTHWESTERN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
1905

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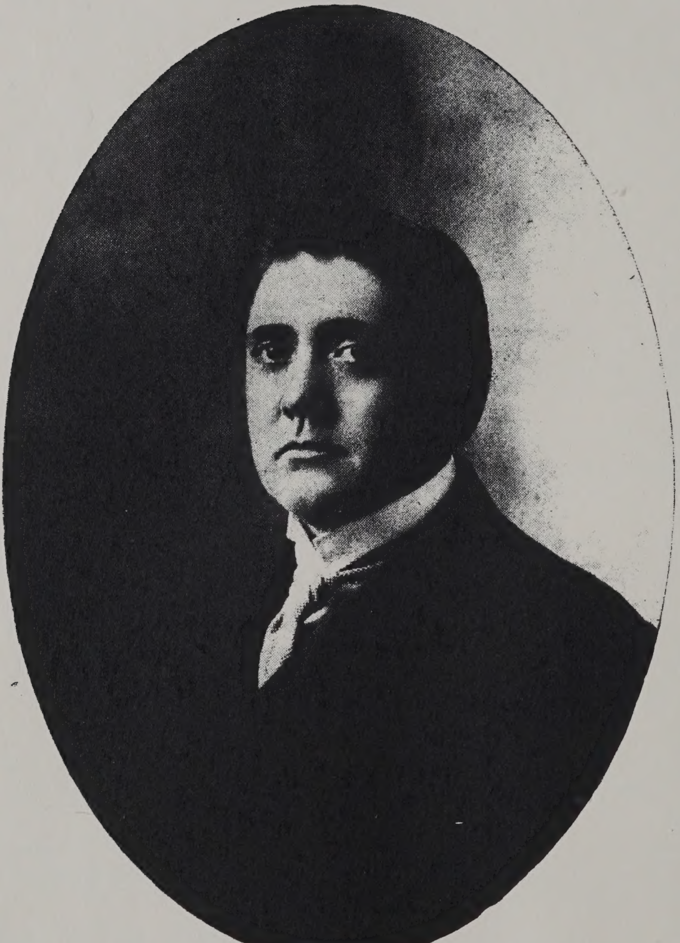

WILLIAM H. SHINN

HISTORY OF WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO

CHAPTER I

WILLIAMS COUNTY ANTIQUITIES

BEFORE the white man, the Indian; before the Indian—who? The archæology of any county forms one of its most interesting chapters. Who the ancient dwellers were, what they did, what lives they led, are all questions of conjecture now. Their history appears only in their silent monuments, as silent as the race, the fact of whose existence they perpetuate. The relics they left are the only key that we possess of their lives, and these give a history whose antiquity seems almost Adamic. The principal remains left consist of earthworks, mounds and parapets, filled with the rude implements of the people who built them, and with the bones of these lost portions of humanity. From their proclivities to build these earthworks, these people are known as " Mound Builders," the only name that now fits their peculiar style of life. The mounds erected by them are of all sizes and shapes, and range in height from three or four feet to sixty or seventy feet. In outline, they are of equal magnitude, though none of great height were ever known to exist within the confines of Williams county. What have been discovered are generally small in size and irregular in outline. They have in nearly all instances been much reduced in height, as the hand of modern man demands them for practical purposes.

The more pretentious earthworks are very generally distributed from western New York, along the southern shore of Lake Erie, through Michigan, to Nebraska, thence north from this line to the southern shore of Lake Superior. From this line they extend south to the Gulf of Mexico. Mounds occur in great numbers in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. They are found in less numbers in western New York, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa and portions of Mexico. In choosing this vast region, extending from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mound Builders took possession of the great system of plains, controlling the long inland water courses of the continent. Along the broad levels drained by this vast river system, the remains of prehistoric man are found. It is authoritatively stated that there are not less than thirteen thousand mounds and inclosures in the State of Ohio. Archæologists have no difficulty in locating the places which were most densely populated, by reason of the irregular distribution of the works. It is interesting to note that in the selection of sites for these earthworks the Mound Builders were influenced by the same motives apparently, which governed their European successors. It is a well established fact that nearly every town of importance in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi and their tributaries is located on the ruins left by this ancient people. The sites selected by the Mound Builders for their most pretentious works were on the river terraces, or bottoms, no doubt because of the natural highways thus rendered available, besides the opportunities for fishing and the cultivation of the warm, quick soil, easily tilled.

The earth mounds are classified as sepulchral, sacrificial, temple or truncated, mounds of observation, symbolical or animal—also known as emblematic—and mounds of defense. The first named, sepulchral, are the most common of any. Emblematical or symbolical mounds are not known to have existed in this county. If they ever did exist here, all traces of them have been obliterated by that leveler of savage country, the plow. Sepulchral mounds were devoted to the purpose of burial and were generally pyramidal in form and usually contained layers of clay, ashes, charcoal, various soils and one or more skeletons, often very many. Sacrificial mounds are usually stratified, the strata being convex layers of clay and loam, the layers alternating above a layer of fine sand. They also contain ashes, igneous stones, charcoal, calcined animal bones, beads, implements of stone, pottery and rude sculpture. They also have altars of burned clay or stone, resting in the center of the mound upon the original earth, on which the people offered sacrifice, employing fire for the purpose. Mounds of observation—sometimes termed defensive—are found upon prominent elevations. They were, doubtless, alarm posts, watch-towers, signal stations, or outlooks. They commonly occur in chains or regular systems and still bear traces of the beacon fires that once burned upon them. In addition to the division of mounds already made, some add monumental or memorial mounds, not numerous, supposed to have been erected as memorials to the distinguished dead among the Mound Builders.

Scarcely any of the few small mounds in Williams county have been properly opened. The examinations have rarely been systematic, and hence much has been lost. Commonly the plow has been run over the mounds, regardless of the history a careful search would reveal, until almost all traces of their existence have been obliterated. This ruthless leveling of the mounds has not been perpetrated, however, merely to gratify the iconoclastic propensities of the plowmen, but their cupidity moved them. They wanted the corn the mounds would produce. Running the plow-share through the mounds was not a very successful method of obtaining a knowledge of their contents.

Of the works examined in this county, those most worthy of mention are situated at the confluence of Silver Creek and the St. Joseph's river, in Madison township, one mile and a quarter east of Pioneer, on land now owned (1905) by J. F. Dohm. At an early period, these mounds—two or more in number, besides others of smaller dimensions—were discovered by P. W. Norris, G. R. Joy and Owen McCarty, early residents of that township. They dug into the mounds and brought to the surface four or five crumbling skeletons, the skulls and larger bones of which were quite sound, but the greater portion of the remainder soon crumbled to powder.

In Northwest township, near Nettle Lake, is found another group of interesting mounds. In fact, encircling the lake are to be found some eight or ten earthworks erected by an unknown race probably more than a thousand years ago. On Section 23, southwest of the lake, are a few of the mounds, two of them being of unusual size for this part of the state. The greater number have been opened in past years by curious and inexperienced persons, who failed to properly notice features which are considered highly important by archæological students. In almost every instance human bones were unearthed, as was also charcoal, sometimes in considerable quantity. Copper implements, such as arrow and spear heads, were taken from several of the mounds, and in one was found a piece of mica, six or eight inches square and about an inch thick. In several instances it was definitely ascertained that many persons were buried in the same mound. The Indians had no knowledge, traditionary or otherwise, concerning these works, and if the Mound Builders were the ancestors of the Red Men of recent date, such fact was unknown and unsuspected by the latter. The writer recalls that during his boyhood days—when Nettle Lake was a fishing pond for Izaak Waltons, young and old, and the silvery sheen that covered it in winter afforded a skating rink, never excelled—these upheavals of earth were commonly spoken of, among us youthful archæologists, as "Indian grave-yards;" but doubtless they have a greater antiquity, and were erected by a different race of beings who lived in ages past, and whose children gamboled o'er those hills, "even as you and I." Indians never buried their dead in mounds like these referred to; neither did they erect altars, where animals and human beings were immolated to secure the favor of the Great Spirit, and afterward cover such altars with a mound of earth. These, and many other important considerations lead the majority of students of antiquity to the opinion that the Mound Builders were a distinct race of people, and that they inhabited a large portion of America long before the Red Men took possession.

On the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of Section 22, in Brady township, on the land now owned by Frederick Charles, was a remarkable group of mounds, uniform in size, about six feet long, three wide, and about two feet high, so arranged as to form half circles, about five hundred feet in diameter. Two of these half circles were complete, one within the other, and another, commencing at the north, was about half finished. Quite a number of these mounds were opened, and about two feet from the original surface fragments of human remains and numerous stone implements were found. At present nothing remains to mark this ancient cemetery, except a fragment of bone or stone implement which occasionally finds its way to the surface. On the south half of the northwest quarter of section 10, in Brady township, on land now owned by James F. Smith, was a solitary mound of considerable magnitude. On opening it, six full developed skeletons were found and one of a child about eight or ten years old. They were lying in a circle with their heads in the center, in close proximity to each other. Dr. Frank O. Hart, of West Unity, now deceased, secured the skulls from this mound and described them in a written article as follows: "They were very thick. The superciliary ridge is very prominent. The orbital processes are profoundly marked. Average distance between temporal ridges of frontal bone, three and a half inches; from temporal ridge of frontal bone to occipital joint, nine inches; length from beginning of frontal bone to occipital joint, twelve inches; from occipital joint to foramen magnum, three inches." On the southwest quarter of section 27, in Brady township, a skeleton was exhumed that was eight feet long, with which were found part of a gun, fragments of knives, a cup of red paint, about one thousand beads of various colors and sizes, and a braid of black hair around its neck, in which there were thirteen silver brooches. This, however, was undoubtedly the skeleton of an Indian, as the relics which were unearthed with it are of a kind not generally associated with the works of the mound-building race.

Dr. Frank O. Hart, mentioned above, was born in Pulaski township, this county, on May 22, 1855, and was the eldest of three children born to Julius C. and Martha M. (Fish) Hart. His father was of New England ancestry, and a direct descendant of John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Dr. Hart was educated at the Shelby high school, in Richland county, O., and in September, 1873, commenced the study of medicine with Dr. J. C. Clay, of Shelby. He graduated at Cincinnati in 1877, and at once began practice at West Unity, where he resided until his death a few years since. In 1880 he was elected coroner of Williams county and served in that capacity two terms. He took great interest in archæological subjects, and was the possessor of what was at one time said to be one of the rarest collections of relics of the Mound Builders to be found in the United States. A portion of the material for this chapter was gleaned from articles written by him.

In a very early day, as we reckon the authentic history of Williams county, Clark Backus and a Mr. Sumner, both early settlers, while hunting in the southern part of Bridgewater township, discovered on fractional section 12, about two miles north of Montpelier, two large mounds which were six or seven feet in height and fifty or sixty feet in diameter. They afterward went back and opened one of the mounds, taking therefrom two skeletons, one very large and the other of ordinary size. Mr. Sumner had some conscientious scruples in thus invading the sanctuary of the dead, and refused to assist in the opening of the others. He even insisted on placing the skeletons already exhumed back in their proper resting place, and this was accordingly done. These earthworks have almost, if not entirely, disappeared before the onward march of the civilized plowman, but there is little doubt that they were sepulchral mounds and that the bones belonged to members of the race that is called—for want of a better name—Mound Builders.

The principal mounds in this county have now been mentioned, and it will be well to notice the implements made by the extinct race. Very few utensils, made of copper, have been found in this part of Ohio, owing partly to the fact of the unexplored condition of many of the mounds, and to the additional fact that little, if any, copper exists in this part of the United States. What does exist is in loose fragments that have been washed down from the upper lake region. When mounds are explored, great care is necessary lest these small utensils be lost, as they are commonly scattered through the mass, and are not always in close proximity to the skeletons. The copper deposits about Lake Superior furnished the prehistoric man with this metal, and, judging from the number of relics, now found, which were made of this metal, it must have been quite abundant. The population then must also have been quite numerous, as occasionally copper implements, tempered to an exceeding hardness, are found about the country. These implements are small, generally less than half a pound in weight, and seldom exceeding three pounds. There were millions of these in use during the period of the ancient dwellers, which must have been thousands of years in duration. The copper implements left on the surface soon disappeared by decomposition, to which copper is nearly as subject as iron. Only a part of the dead Mound Builders were placed in burial mounds, and of these only a part were buried with their copper ornaments on and about them. Of those that were, only a small part have been discovered, and in many instances, the slight layer of earth over them has not prevented the decay and disappearance of the copper relics. Articles of bronze or brass are not found with the remains of the builders of the mounds, and it is evident they knew nothing of these metals in the Ohio Valley; nor did they possess any of the copper that had been melted and cast in moulds.

Stone relics, however, are very numerous and well preserved. Stone axes, stone mauls, stone hammers, stone chisels, etc., are very plentiful yet, and were the common implements of the prehistoric man in this part of the West. None were made with holes or eyes for the insertion of a helve or handle. They were made more perfect by rubbing and polishing, probably done from time to time, after they were brought into use. A handle or helve, made of a withe or split stick, was fastened in the groove by thongs of hide. The bit is narrower than the body of the ax, which is generally not well enough balanced to be of much value as a cutting instrument. It is very seldom the material is hard enough to cut green and sound timber. The poll is usually round, but sometimes flat, and, rarely, pointed. It is much better adapted to breaking than cutting, while the smaller ones are better fitted for war clubs than tools. As a maul to break dry limbs they were very efficient, which was probably the use made of them. In weight they range from half a pound to sixteen pounds, but are generally less than three pounds. The very heavy ones must have been kept at the regular camps and villages, as they could not have been carried far, even in canoes. Such axes are occasionally found in the Indian towns on the frontier, as they were found in Ohio, among the aborigines. The Mound Builders apparently did not give them as much prominence among their implements as their savage successors. Double headed hammers have the grooves in the middle. They were made of the same material as the axes, so balanced as to give a blow with equal force at either end. Their mechanical symmetry is often perfect. As a weapon in war, they were indeed formidable, for which purpose they are yet used in the wilds of the far West.

Implements known as "fleshers" and "skinners," chisel-formed, commonly called "celts," were probably used as aids in peeling the skins of animals from the meat and bones. For the purpose of cutting tools from wood they were not sufficiently hard, and do not show such use, excepting a few flint chisels. They may have been applied as coal scrapers where wood had been burned; but this could not have been a general thing without destroying the perfect edge most of them now exhibit. The grooved axes were much better adapted to this purpose. Fleshers and scrapers of various sizes and shapes are numerous in this county.

Pestles to grind maize so as to fit it for cooking have been found in a variety of forms—some cylindrical, some bell-shaped and some cone-like. The materials are also various, consisting of green stone, syenite, quartz, etc., and sometimes sandstone. Most of the pestles are short, with a wide base, tapering toward the top. They were probably used with one hand, and moved about in the mortar in a circle. The long, round instrument, usually called a pestle, does not appear to be fitted for crushing seeds and grain by pounding or turning in the mortar. It was probably used as a rolling pin, perhaps on a board or leveled log, but not upon stone. It is seldom found smooth or polished, and varies from seven to thirteen inches in length. In outline they taper toward each end, which is generally smooth and circular in form, as though it had been twirled in an upright position.

Perforated plates, thread sizers, shuttles, etc., generally made of striped slate, are met with in an almost endless variety of forms, most of which have tapering holes through them flat-wise, the use of which has been much discussed. They are generally symmetrical, the material fine grained, and their proportions graceful, as though their principal use was that of ornamentation. Many of them may well have been worn suspended as beads or ornaments. Some partake of the character of badges or insignias of authority. Others, if strung together on thongs, or belts, would serve as a coat of mail, protecting the breast or back against the arrows of an enemy. A number of them would serve to size and twist twine or coarse thread made of bark, raw-hide, or sinew. The most common theory regarding their use is, however, lacking one important feature—none of them show signs of use by wearing, the edges of the holes through them being sharp and perfect. This objection applies equally well to their use as suspended ornaments. Some of them are shuttle-form, through which coarse threads might have been passed for weaving rude cloth of bark or of fibrous plants, such as milk-weed or thistles. There are also double-ended and jointed ones, with a cross section, about the middle of which is a circle and through which is a perforation.

Badges and wands, in a variety of forms, are frequently found. A perfect specimen of a double crescent was picked up by George Kimbell of Brady township, several years ago, and several single crescents have been found from time to time. Wands and badges are nearly all fabricated from striped and variegated slate, highly finished, very symmetrical and elegant in proportions, evidently designed to be ornamental. If they were stronger and heavier some of them would serve the purpose of hatchets or battle-axes. The material is compact and fine grained; but the eyes, or holes for handles or staves, are quite small, seldom half an inch in diameter. Their edges are not sharp, but rounded, and the body is thin, usually less than one-fourth of an inch in thickness. The form of badges known as "double-crescents" are the most elegant and expensive of any yet brought to notice. They were probably used to indicate the highest rank or office. The single crescent perhaps signified a rank next below the double. In nearly or quite all the crescents the points turn outward. The finish around the bore of all winged badges and the crescents is the same, and the size of the bore about the same—from two-fifths to three-fifths of an inch. On one side of all is a narrow ridge; on the other, a flat band, lengthwise, like a ridge that has been ground down to a width of one to two-tenths of an inch. Badges and crescents are invariably made of banded slate, generally of a greenish shade of color. The other forms of wands or badges, such as those with symmetrical wings or blades, are also made of green striped slate, highly polished, with a bore of about one-half inch in diameter, apparently to insert a light wooden rod or staff. They were probably emblems of distinction, and were not ornaments. Nothing like them is known among the modern tribes, in form or use, hence they are attributed to the Mound Builders. In addition to stone ornaments, the prehistoric man seems to have had a penchant, like his savage successors, to bedaub his body with various colors, derived from different minerals. These compounds were mixed in hollowed stones or diminutive mortars—"paint cups"—in which the mineral mass of colored clay was reduced to powder and prepared for application to the body. Such paint cups are not common in this county, in fact they are quite rare.

A few pipes of special note have been found. Three were found in the south part of Brady township, of which one represented a tortoise, one a frog and one a duck. The comparative rarity of aboriginal smoking pipes is easily explained by the fact that they were not discarded, as were weapons, when those by whom they were fashioned entered upon the iron age. The advance of the whites in no way lessened the demand for pipes, nor did the whites substitute a better implement. The pipes were retained and used until worn out or broken, save the few that were buried with their dead owners. What was the ultimate fate of these can only be conjectured. In very few instances does an Indian grave contain a pipe. If the practice of burying the pipe with its owner was common, it is probable that the graves were opened and robbed of this coveted article by members of the same or some other tribes.

It only remains to notice the "flints," in addition to which a few other archæological relics of minor importance are found about the country, but none of sufficient import to merit mention, or to throw additional light on the lost tribes of America. Arrow and spear heads and other similar pieces of flaked flints are the most abundant of any aboriginal relics in the United States. Stone implements, such as have been heretofore mentioned, have been found in all parts of Williams county, but more frequently along the banks of Tiffin and St. Joseph's rivers. "Indian arrows," on the contrary, are found everywhere; and there is not a boy living amid pastoral surroundings, who does not treasure among his possessions a few of the flinty weapons. They are chiefly made of hard and brittle siliceous materials; are easily damaged in hitting any object at which they are aimed, hence many of them bear marks of violent use. Perfect specimens are, however, by no means rare. The art of arrow-making survives to the present day among certain Indian tribes, from whom is learned the art practiced that produces them. A classification of arrow-heads is not within the scope of this work; indeed, it is rarely attempted by archæologists. The styles are almost as numerous as their makers. In general, they are all the same in outline, mostly leaf-shaped, varying according to the taste of those who construct them. They may have been chipped—probably most of them were—and some may have been ground. Spear heads exhibit as large a variety as arrow-heads. Like arrow-heads, spear-heads were inserted in wooden handles of various lengths, though in many tribes they were fastened by thongs of untanned leather or sinews. Their modes of manufacture were generally the same. Sometimes tribes contained "arrow-makers," whose business it was to make these implements, selling them to or exchanging them with their neighbors for wampum or peltry. When the Indian desired an arrow-head, he could buy one of the "arrow-maker" or make one himself. The common method was to take a chipping implement, generally made of the pointed rods of a deer horn, from eight to sixteen inches in length, or of slender, short pieces of the same material, bound with sinews to wooden sticks, resembling arrow shafts. The "arrow-maker" held in his left hand the flake of flint or obsidian on which he intended to operate, and pressing the point of the tool against its edge, detached scale after scale until the flake assumed the desired form.

The peculiar and distinctive features of these various relics of past ages may be of little interest to some readers; but the fact of their existence, and that they are the only remains of a race of human beings who passed away, possibly hundreds of years before the advent of the white man on the American continent, urges the effort to solve the mystery of the ancient people and their works. And from the great number and variety of stone implements found in Williams county, one would suppose that this section was a favorite locality of that peculiar race; and that fact adds a local interest to what would otherwise be, perhaps, a dry subject. A nation doubtless arose and fell in the same region where now thrives an Anglo-Saxon civilization; and we, "who tread on the earth that lies over their brow," can obtain information concerning them only by a careful study of the implements and works they have left behind them. But the solution of the problem has baffled the skill, research and learning of the most noted scientists of two continents, since the existence of these "works of human hands" was first determined. True, we have theories, ably supported by argument, and these, in the absence of absolutely established facts, we must accept, weigh, adopt, or discard, and still remain in darkness as to the origin, mission and final destiny of the Mound Builders.

Judging by the works which they have left—and that is in accord with scriptural suggestion—they were a powerful race of slightly civilized and industrious people. The earth monuments only remain, these enclosing relics of rude art, together with the last lingering remains of mortality—the crumbling skeletons—which the curious investigators have disturbed in their resting places. But even these have yielded to scientific minds, strongly imaginative, some knowledge of the character and lives of the race. The Twentieth century dawned in almost as great ignorance of the prehistoric race as did the Nineteenth; yet in the ever restless spirit of modern investigation, efforts have been made to link the Mound Builders with some ancient and far distant race of civilized mankind.

As early as 1772, Rev. David Jones publicly noted the existence of the mounds and advanced his views concerning them. In 1784, Arthur Lee wrote a treatise on the lost race and advanced some rather visionary ideas regarding it. But the first general survey of the works was made by Caleb Atwater of Circleville. O., in 1819, under the auspices and at the expense of the Archæological Society of Worcester, Mass. About 1836, Dr. Edwin Hamilton Davis of Chillicothe, was employed with Col. Charles Whittlesey in explorations and surveys of the Newark antiquities. In this work Dr. Davis became greaty interested and continued his investigations and collections ever afterward. Ephraim George Squier of New York, also became greatly interested in archæological matters, and in 1846, he and Dr. Davis joined in the preparation of a work which formerly stood at the head of the archæological literature of North America. Recognizing the merit of this work, the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D. C., assumed a protectorate over it, and in 1848 published the work of Squier and Davis, together with some plans and notes furnished by others, under title of "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley." This publication constituted the first systematic work with descriptions and figures of the numerous remains of the Mound Builders. From that day to the present, the Smithsonian Institution has continued to publish books and original papers relating to this subject. Stimulated by this national recognition, and in view of the absorbing interest of the subject, many original investigators have published manuscripts and books at private expense, some of which are very elaborate and complete.

It is a noticeable feature of all the early publications in this department of archæology that they attach great antiquity to the Mound Builders. The variations in this regard are also very great. Some assume that thousands of years have elapsed since the building of these ancient relics, and all agree that they are very old. Eminent authorities are as widely at variance regarding their antiquity as they are concerning their origin and purpose. In closing this chapter we present the views of a number of recognized authorities as tending to show that the Mound Builders were, or may have been, the immediate predecessors of the Indians found here on the advent of the white man.

The Marquise de Nadaillac, in his admirable work on "Prehistoric America," published in 1895, and edited and verified by W. H. Dalle, sums up a voluminous discussion as follows: "What, it may be asked, are we to believe was the character of the race to which, for the purpose of clearness, we have for the time being applied the term, 'Mound Builders?' The answer must be, they were no more nor less than the immediate predecessors, in blood and culture, of the Indians described by DeSoto's chroniclers and other early explorers, the Indians who inhabited the region of the mounds at the time of their discovery by civilized men. As, in the far north, the Aleuts, up to the time of their discovery, were, by the testimony of the shell heaps as well as their language, the direct successors of the early eskimo—so in the fertile basin of the Mississippi, the Indians were the builders, or the successors of the builders, of the singular and varied structures attributed to the Mound Builders. It is here that a very different opinion has been widely entertained, chiefly by those who were not aware of the historical evidence. Even Mr. Squier, who, in his famous work on the ancient monuments of the Mississippi valley, makes no distinction in these remains, but speaks of the Mound Builders as an extinct race and contrasts their progress in the arts with the supposed low condition of the modern Indians, in a subsequent publication felt compelled to modify his views and distinguish between the earthworks of western New York, which he admits to be of purely Indian origin, and those found in southern Ohio. Further researches have shown that no line can be drawn between the two; the differences are merely of degree. For the most part the objects found in them, from the rude knife to the carved and polished 'gorget,' might have been taken from the inmost recesses of a mound or picked up on the surface among the debris of a recent Indian village, and the most experienced archæologist could not decide which was their origin. Lucian Carr has recently reviewed the whole subject in a manner which cannot but carry conviction to the impatient archæologist, but the conclusions he arrives at have the weight of other, and, as all will admit, most distinguished authority. It is not asserted that the mounds were built by any particular tribe, or at any particular period, nor that each and every tribe of the Mississippi valley erected such structures, nor that there were not differences of culture and proficiency in the arts between different tribes of Mound Builders, as between the tribes of modern Indians now known. All that can be claimed is that there is nothing in the mounds beyond the power of such people as inhabited the region when discovered; that those people are known to have constructed many of the mounds now, or recently existing, and that there is no evidence that any other, or different people, had any hand in the construction of those mounds in regard to which direct historical evidence is wanting. Summing up the results that have been attained, it may be safely said that, so far from there being any *a priori* reason why the red Indians could not have erected these works, the evidence shows, conclusively, that in New York and the Gulf states they did build mounds and embankments that are essentially of the same character as those found in Ohio."

Lucian Carr says: "In view of the fact that these same Indians are the only people, except the whites, who, so far as we know, have ever held the region over which these works are scattered, it is believed that we are fully justified in claiming that the mounds and enclosures of Ohio, like those in New York and the Gulf states, were the work of the red Indians of historic times, or of their immediate ancestors. To deny this conclusion, and to accept its alternative, ascribing these remains to a mythical people of a different civilization, is to reject a simple and satisfactory explanation of a fact in favor of one that is far-fetched and incomplete, and this is neither science nor logic."

We quote a few brief extracts from sayings of other eminent students and scholars, and leave the determination of the question to the patient reader:

"The earthworks differ less in kind than in degree from other remains respecting which history has not been entirely silent."—Haven.

"There is nothing, indeed, in the magnitude and structure of our western mounds which a semi-hunter and semi-agricultural population, like that which may be ascribed to the ancestors or Indian predecessors of the existing race, could not have executed."—Schoolcraft.

"All these earth-works—and I am inclined to assert the same of the whole of those in the Atlantic states, and the majority in the Mississippi valley—were the production, not of some mythical tribe of high civilization in remote antiquity, but of the identical nations found by the whites residing in these regions."—Brinton.

"No doubt that they were erected by the forefathers of the present Indians."—Gen. Lewis Cass.

"Nothing in them which may not have been performed by a savage people."—Gallatin.

'The old idea that the Mound Builders were peoples distinct from, and other than, the Indians of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries, and their progenitors, appears unfounded in fact and fanciful."—C. C. Jones.

"Mound Builders were tribes of American Indians of the same race with the tribes now living."—Judge M. F. Force.

"The progress of discovery seems constantly to diminish the distinction between the ancient and modern races; and it may not be very wide of the track to assert that they were the same people."—Lapham.

The preceding pages give the views of well-known scientists and explorers, both early and recent. It is not the purpose of this work to decide controverted questions, but to give both sides and allow the reader to form his own opinions, based upon authorities cited.

In concluding this chapter, we will state, however, that, although Williams county may not be a rich field for archæological research, yet the evidences in existence that this section was once the abode of these unknown earth workers, are sufficient to create a local interest in any information concerning them. Judging from the mass of published information on the subject, the Mound Builders were a race or races of people, somewhat nomadic in their habits, yet more centralized in habitation than the Indians of historic time. They were semi-agricultural in pursuits, given to hunting and fishing, and schooled in the primitive arts of warfare. They had some knowledge of trade, or a system of rude barter, which brought them into possession of articles from far distant localities, since in Williams county, and particularly in the vicinity of Nettle Lake, mounds have been opened which contained copper that must have come from Lake Superior, and mica that probably had its origin in the old mines of North Carolina. But, after all, our opinions can be but deductions drawn from the mementoes they have left us, and which have withstood the forces of nature that causes less enduring materials to crumble and decay. However carefully we may study and examine these rude and imperfect records, much will doubtless always remain shrouded in dense obscurity.

CHAPTER II

EARLY JURISDICTION

IT WAS not until many years after the close of the American Revolution that the Anglo-Saxon race undertook the project of colonization in the region known as the Maumee Valley, of which Williams county is a component, and as regards population and resources, a very important division. It should not be inferred, however, that the territory contained within the present limits of the county remained unvisited by white men and unknown to them until after the epoch mentioned above. While this portion of North America was under the dominion of the French government an extensive trade with the Indians was carried on, and in pursuit of the returns that came from the traffic with the red men the wiley and skillful French traders traveled extensively over this portion of their mother country's possessions. They continued their relations with the natives, notwithstanding that the result of the French and Indian war transferred the right of dominion to the English government, and even for years following the American Revolution they followed their vocation, undisturbed and without competition, save the rivalry existing among themselves. So it is fair to presume that during their many excursions, in quest of trade, the present limits of Williams county were frequently invaded; and as their much traveled route, connecting Detroit with the Wabash river, was through this region, it can easily be inferred that the natives who then inhabited this section were the beneficiaries or victims, as the case might be, of commercial intercourse with the early French traders.

Good traditional authority exists for the belief that at least one Indian and French trail passed through Williams county. Major Suttenfield and wife passed over it on horseback, after Hull's surrender of the Northwestern army in the latter part of the summer of 1812, on their journey from Detroit to Fort Wayne. But railroad tracks and plow-shares have long since destroyed all vestige of this highway, so often trodden by the once powerful tribes and their eager customers. These commercial adventurers were not pioneers in the true sense of that word, and it is doubtful if they could properly be called advance agents of civilization. Their mission in these parts was neither to civilize the denizens of the forest nor to carve out homes in the western wilderness. "The white man's burden" rested not heavily upon their shoulders and gave them little or no concern, the only motive that fetched them hither being a desire to possess, at as little cost as possible, the wares which the Indians had for sale. This object being attained, they wended their way homeward and the localities which had known them knew them no more. So it remained for the forerunners of Anglo-Saxon civilization, as they led the "march of empire" in a westerly direction, to open this section of country for actual settlement and win from hostile nature—and at times a more hostile foe in human form—homes for themselves and posterity.

Before proceeding with an account of the organization and settlement of Williams county, a brief review of the question of title to lands will be necessary, the word title as here used having special reference to racial dominion or civil jurisdiction. As is well known, the French were the first civilized people who laid claim to the territory now embraced within the state of Ohio, and France exercised nominal lordship over the region until the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, which ended the French and Indian war. Prior to this date the French actually occupied isolated places in the vast extent of territory claimed by them (the south shore of Lake Erie, for instance) but it is an open historical question when such occupancy began. It is certain, however, that there was not the semblance of courts or magistrates for the trial of civil or criminal issues, and hence the chief function of civil government was lacking. And even for some years after the Ohio country passed under the control of the officials of the British government, affairs there were managed by army officers, commandants of posts on the frontier.

Immediately after the peace of 1763 with the French, the Province of Canada was extended by act of Parliament, southerly to the Allegheny and Ohio rivers. This of course included all of the present state of Ohio, notwithstanding the claims of the colony of Virginia that she had the title to all the land northwest of the Ohio river. This conflict of authority was at its height during the Revolutionary war, and in 1778, soon after the conquest of the British forts on the Mississippi and the Wabash, by Gen. George Rogers Clark, Virginia erected the county of Illinois, with the county seat at Kaskaskia. It practically embraced all the territory in the present states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. But the British held possession of the Ohio country and all the lake region, and in the same year (1778), Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Canada, divided Upper Canada into four districts for civil purposes, one of which included Detroit and the lake territory.

Great Britain had promised the Indian tribes that the whites should not settle north of the Ohio river, and the government of this almost unlimited region was, during English control, exclusively military, with Detroit as the central post. This was the condition during the Revolutionary war, and even after the treaty of peace, in 1783, the same state of affairs continued until after the second, or Jay treaty, in 1795. Early in 1792 the Upper Canadian parliament authorized Governor Simcoe to lay off nineteen counties to embrace that province, and it is presumed that the county of Essex, on the east bank of Detroit river, included Michigan and northern Ohio. While this supposition is not conclusive, certain it is that some form of British civil authority existed at their forts and settlements until Detroit was given up and all its dependencies in August, 1796.

The treaty of 1783, which terminated the war of the Revolution, included Ohio within the boundaries of the United States, and the Seventh article of that treaty stated that the King of Great Britain would, "with all convenient speed, withdraw all his forces, garrisons and fleets from the United States, and from every post, place and harbor, within the same." Military posts were garrisoned, however, by British troops, and continued under the dominion of Great Britain for many years after that date. But preparatory to taking possession of it, and in order to avoid collision with the Indian tribes, who owned the soil, treaties were made with them from time to time (of which more is said on a subsequent page), in which they ceded to the United States their title to their lands. But the territory thus secured by treaties with Great Britain, and with the Indian tribes—and concerning which we had thus established an amicable understanding—was many years sequestered from our possession. The British government urged as an excuse the failure of Americans to fulfill that part of the treaty protecting the claims of British subjects against citizens of the United States; but, from the "aid and comfort" rendered the Indians in the campaigns of Harmar, St. Clair, and Wayne, the apparent prime cause was to defeat the efforts of the United States to extend their power over the country and tribes north of the Ohio, and continue to the British the advantage of the fur trade, which, from their relations with these tribes they possessed. The ultimate result of this international difficulty was the campaigns of 1790-91-94, ostensibly against the Indians, but substantially against them and their British allies, which bear so intimate a relation to the formal surrender of the country to American control, that they perform an essential part of history and are given in detail in the first volume of this work.

Virginia, however, still adhering to her claim of sovereignty over the Northwestern country, on March 1, 1784, ceded the territory to the United States, and immediately congress entered seriously upon the consideration of the problem of providing a government for the vast domain. Its deliberations resulted in the famous "Compact of 1787," which is also fully discussed and explained in the history of Ohio, which accompanies this volume. It might not be out of place here, however, to call attention to the fact that this compact, in two provisions which were inspired by Thomas Jefferson, guaranteed to all the right of religious freedom and prohibited slavery in the territory. Hence the citizens of Williams county, in common with the citizens of Ohio and those of the sister states that were carved from Virginia's grant, can feel a pardonable pride that never, under any American jurisdiction of this domain, has a witch been burned at the stake or a slave been sold on the auction block.

All these pretensions of sovereignty and conflictions of authority were aside from the claims of the real inhabitants of the country. The

Iroquois Indians, or Six Nations, laid claim to the entire extent of territory, bordering on the Ohio river and northward, basing their contention upon the assumption that they had conquered it and held it by right of conquest. In 1722, a treaty had been made at Albany, New York, between the Iroquois and English, by which the lands west of the Alleghany mountains were acknowledged to belong to the Iroquois by reason of their conquests from the Eries, Conoys, Tongarias, etc., but this claim was extinguished by the terms of the treaty of Fort Stanwix, concluded October 22, 1784. The treaty of Fort McIntosh, in 1785, was intended to quiet the claims of the Delawares, Wyandots, Ottawas and Chippewas, in the Ohio valley. The Shawanees relinquished their claims under the provisions of the treaties of Fort Finney, January 31, 1786, treaty of Fort Harmar (held by General St. Clair), January 9, 1789, by the treaty of Greenville, and various other treaties from that date until 1818. It is a notable fact that every foot of Ohio soil was acquired from the Indians through treaty or purchase, and, when compared with methods followed in other sections of America, the means employed were decidedly honorable. True, some of these treaties, as for instance the one concluded at Greenville, were entered into at the close of a long and bloody conflict, when the Indians had been conquered and reduced to a condition of helplessness, thus making them obliged to submit to any terms offered by the victors. But when we consider the fact, demonstrated on every page of the world's history, that the tree of civilization does not grow until the soil has been fertilized by human blood, we can excuse the warfare waged against the Indians, and by comparison at least point to those treaties as just and merciful ones.

The Greenville treaty was made by General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, on August 3, 1795, at the close of the Indian war that waged in the Maumee Valley and throughout the state during the years 1790-95. Full particulars of these hostilities, as before stated, are given in the accompanying volume—devoted to the history of Ohio—but the provisions of the treaty comes properly within the scope of the history of Williams county, and will bear repetition. Between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas and the Maumee and Miami, south to the line from Fort Laurens to Laramie's store, the Indians were to retain possession, and besides that they were to hold the title to all the rest of the country, west of a line from Fort Recovery to the mouth of the Kentucky river, and west and northwest of the Maumee, except Clark's grant on the Ohio river and certain reservations about Detroit and the forts in Ohio and other parts of the northwest, with the understanding that when they should sell lands, it should be to the United States alone, whose protection the Indians acknowledged, and that of no other power whatever. There was to be free passage along the Maumee, Auglaize, Sandusky and Wabash rivers and the lake. Twenty thousand dollars worth of goods were at once delivered to the Indians, and a promise was made of $9,500 worth every year forever.

The United States senate ratified the Wayne or Greenville treaty in due time, and northwestern Ohio, north of the treaty line and west of the Connecticut Reserve line, remained unorganized practically until 1820. About the same time (1795) John Jay, as minister to England, concluded his treaty with that country, by the terms of which the British posts were to be abandoned in the neighborhood of the Great Lakes on or before June 1, 1796. The terms not being strictly complied with, in July, 1796, the United States demanded a fulfillment of the treaty and the transfer of authority was accordingly made, General Wayne moving his headquarters thither and displacing the English commander. In the absence of General Arthur St. Clair, who was the Governor of the Northwest Territory, Secretary Winthrop Sargent went to Detroit and proclaimed the county of Wayne, which included, besides what is now parts of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, the Indian country in Ohio, the boundary of which on the south was the Greenville treaty line.

The proclamation creating the county of Wayne was issued August 15, 1796, and the boundaries named therein were as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river, upon Lake Erie, and with the said river to the Portage, between it and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum; thence down the said branch to the forks, at the carrying place above Fort Laurens; thence by a west line to the western boundary of Hamilton county (which is a due north line from the lower Shawanees town upon the Scioto river); thence by a line west-northerly to the southern part of the Portage, between the Miamis of the Ohio and the St. Mary's river; thence by a line also west-northerly to the most southern part of Lake Michigan; thence along the western shores of the same to the northwest part thereof (including the lands upon the streams emptying into the said lake); thence by a due north line to the territorial boundary in Lake Superior, and with the said boundary through Lakes Huron, Sinclair and Erie, to the mouth of Cuyahoga river, the place of beginning."

From the organization of the territory, in 1788, it had had no representative government, owing to the restrictions of the "Ordinance of 1787." A reference to this "Compact" will discover to the reader that the legislative function of the territorial government in its first stage of development, and until there should be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, was lodged in the Governor of the Territory and the judges of the general (or Territorial) court, or any two of the judges and the Governor. But in 1798, a census was taken, which disclosed more than the necessary "five thousand free male inhabitants" in the Territory, and on October 29, 1798, Governor St. Clair accordingly proclaimed an election, to be held on the third Monday of December, for the choice of a house of representatives in the general assembly, to which the territory was entitled at that stage of development. The gentlemen chosen at this election met at Cincinnati on January 22, 1799, and organized the first elective legislative body that ever convened within the limits of the Northwest Territory. Twenty-two representatives were chosen by the nine counties then organized, and they constituted the lawmaking power of the territory, when taken in conjunction with a legislative council of five members, who were appointed by the United States congress.

Wayne county (of which the territory now embraced in Williams was then a part) was represented in this assembly by Solomon Sibley, Charles F. Chaubert de Joncaire and Jacob Visger, all residents of Detroit. The first named, Mr. Sibley, was an exceedingly active and influential member of this assembly and was appointed a committee of one to superintend the printing of the laws of the session. The book as printed is now in possession of the supreme court library in Columbus, and in it Mr. Sibley certifies that he has carefully compared the printed laws with the original enrolled bills, and finds them to agree. During the interim between the adjournment of the first and the meeting of the second session of this legislature, congress passed the act dividing the Northwest Territory and creating the new territory of Indiana. This act legislated Henry Vanderburg, of Vincennes, out of the legislative council, and Mr. Sibley was later promoted to that position. At the election for members of the second legislative assembly, Wayne county chose as her representatives Charles F. Chaubert de Joncaire, George McDougal and Jonathan Schiefflin. The election of the latter two was contested, but they were declared to be entitled to their seats.

By the above-mentioned act of Congress, which was approved May 7, 1800, the old Northwest Territory was cut in two by setting off Indiana Territory west of the line of Wayne's treaty, running from a point opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river to Fort Recovery, and thence due north to the Canada line. Hence the above date marks the division of the territory embraced in the states of Ohio and Indiana, the line north of Fort Recovery being located about one and one-half miles east of the present state line. The region east of this line remained under the title of "The Territory Northwest of the Ohio river," and while by the provisions of this act the old county of Wayne was considerably reduced in extent, yet its numerical strength as regards population was probably lessened very little. By the United States census of 1800, Wayne county—which it must be remembered included Detroit—contained a population of 3,206. The first, and what proved to be the last, session of the second territorial legislature, convened at Chillicothe, November 23, 1801, and adjourned January 23, 1802; and this was the last time that Detroit was represented in an Ohio legislative assembly.

In the Congressional enactment providing for a convention to consider the question of statehood, Wayne county was not permitted to elect delegates, owing to the fact that its population was confined chiefly to Detroit and vicinity, which region it was not intended to include in the proposed new state. This separation, and the ensuing admission of Ohio into the Union of States, left the region of which Williams county is now a part—though technically considered a part of Hamilton—practically under no county jurisdiction; but as all the vast territory, north of the Greenville treaty line and west of the boundary of the Connecticut Reserve, was as yet the hunting ground of the aborigines, such a condition of affairs entailed no hardship upon anyone.

Among the first acts of the first state legislature, however, was the erection of eight new counties, three of which—Montgomery, Green and Franklin—were extended in jurisdiction to the northern boundary of the State, including all the Indian country, formerly a part of Wayne county, except a strip south of the Connecticut Reserve. As the first-named was the most western of these three counties, with seat of government at Dayton, it follows that the territory now comprising Williams county then became an unorganized part of Montgomery. The aforesaid act was passed March 24, 1803, and described the boundaries of the new county of Montgomery as follows:

"Beginning on the state line at the northwest corner of the county of Butler; thence east with the lines of Butler and Warren to the east line of section number sixteen in the third township and fifth range; thence north eighteen miles; thence east two miles; thence north to the state line; thence with the same to the west boundary of the state; thence south with the said boundary to the beginning, shall compose a third new county, called and known by the name of Montgomery." At this time, 1803, an enumeration of the white males of the state was taken and it was found that the county of Montgomery contained 526 individuals who complied with such description.

On January 16, 1807, the county of Miami was formed out of territory taken from Montgomery county, and as its location was such as to place it immediately north of the organized part of the latter county, thus separating it from the Indian country to the north, the legislature amended the act on January 7, 1812, by the following: "Whereas by the act establishing Montgomery county, the limits of said county were extended to the northern boundary of this state, and whereas by the above-recited act, the limits of Miami county were confined to the Indian boundary line [the Greenville treaty line], leaving a tract of country attached to Montgomery county, over which no jurisdiction can be conveniently exercised—therefore, all that part of the county of Montgomery lying north of the county of Miami, shall be, and the same is hereby attached to the said county of Miami."

By the above act of the legislature, the territory now comprising Williams and other neighboring counties passed under the jurisdiction of Miami county, and it remained so connected for a period of exactly seven years to the day. Upon January 7, 1819, the legislature erected the county of Shelby by the following enactment: "*Be it enacted* etc., That so much of the county of Miami as lies north of the line beginning on the line dividing Miami and Darke counties, between sections twenty-seven and thirty-four in township ten, range four, and running east with said line to the Great Miami river; thence across said river; thence down said river to the middle of the twelfth range, township one, east of the Miami river, to the section line between sections twenty-one and twenty-two; thence east with said line to Champaign county line; thence north with said line dividing the counties of Miami, Champaign and Logan, to the Indian boundary line [Greenville Treaty line]; thence north six miles; thence west to a point so that a line drawn from said point due north will strike the Indian boundary line at the point where the line between the counties of Miami and Darke strikes said line; thence south with said line between the counties of Darke and Miami to the place of beginning, and also including the United States reservations at Fort St. Mary's, Amanda and Defiance, which shall be known by the name of Shelby; provided, that the jurisdiction of said county of Shelby shall extend over all that territory lying north of said county and which at this time is included within the jurisdiction of the county of Miami; and all crimes that shall be committed within the territory aforesaid shall be considered as having been committed within the said county of Shelby."

During all this time, following the Greenville treaty—and during which northwestern Ohio had been placed successively under various jurisdictions—the lands remained in the hands of the Indians with the exception of a very small amount of territory. There were a few United States reservations for military purposes, such as that of twelve miles square at the foot of the Maumee rapids, and of six miles square at the mouth of the river, where Fort Industry, built about 1800, marked the site of the present city of Toledo. But in the main, all of northwestern Ohio was barren of white inhabitants, and so far as the present site of Williams county is concerned, it was, in the language of the young Fourth of July orator, "a howling wilderness." The Indians and what few whites there were in the vicinity of the reservations had continued to live in comparative peace from and after the ending of hostilities by the Greenville treaty. Even during the troublous times, incident to the war of 1812, when Tecumseh was marshalling the men of his race to assist the British forces, there was but little antagonism between the settlers and natives of the region known as Northwestern Ohio. Feelings of security were necessarily absent, however, owing to the scenes of war being enacted at nearby points; and with the news of the great disaster on Raisin river—where an American force numbering 800 was almost annihilated—came a realization of the danger that menaced the settlers. The region of which we write was then included in Miami county and the communication which follows will afford a view of the state of public opinion therein, following the catastrophe mentioned above:

Miami County, State of Ohio, Feb. 3, 1813.

"To His Excellency, R. J. Meigs, Governor of said State:

"The petition of the undersigned humbly showeth: That whereas there are a considerable number of Indians of the Delaware tribe, called in by order of General Harrison, and are now in our county; that it is but thinly settled on the frontier, distant from a market where provisions can be furnished them, and the people of the neighborhood feel themselves in a dangerous situation in consequence of their being exposed to invasion and depredations from them, they being contiguous to the enemy; hence every opportunity of conveying information to them of our situation, moving off and joining them, and doing much mischief from their knowledge of our county, etc. This brief petition we would humbly beg your excellency to take into consideration and relieve us from a state of uneasiness and alarm, by having them removed into the interior of the State, where, from its population, they will be awed into submission to the authorities having charge over them, and supported at a much less expense to the government. And we shall as in duty bound, etc.

"G. Smith Houston," and 52 others.

Occasionally, of course, there were outrages that threatened serious trouble, due to lawless elements in both races and the race hatred entertained by many of the whites; yet as a rule the Red Men of the Forest pursued their wild and favorite avocations, undisturbed by naught, save what must have been apparent to them—the irresistible and ceaseless march of Anglo-Saxon civilization. The end of his dominion in the State of Ohio was rapidly approaching, and in his thoughtful moments the Indian must have heard, reverberating through the air, in tones that a modern policeman would envy, the laconic and authoritative command—"Move on!"

On November 17, 1807, a treaty was made at Detroit between William Hull, Governor of the Territory of Michigan and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, on the part of the United States, and the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Ottowa, Chippeway, Wyandotte and Pottawatamie nations of Indians on the other part. Under this treaty the following described lands were ceded to the United States: "Beginning at the mouth of the Miami river of the Lakes [Maumee] and running thence up the middle thereof to the mouth of the Great Au Glaize river; thence running due north until it intersects a parallel of latitude, to be drawn from the outlet of Lake Huron, which forms the river Sinclair; thence running northeast, the course that may be found will lead in a direct line to White Rock, in Lake Huron; thence due east until it intersects the boundary line between the United States and Upper Canada, in said lake; thence southerly, following the said boundary line down said lake, through River Sinclair, Lake St. Clair and the River Detroit into Lake Erie, to a point due east of the aforesaid Miami river; thence west to the place of beginning."

The western line of this vast extent of territory, which was by the above treaty granted to the United States, passed through the western part of Fulton county and almost exactly located the present boundary line between Ridgeville township, in Henry, and Springfield in Williams county. Extended north from the Maumee, this cession of land comprised a considerable portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan in addition to the Ohio territory, included. The price paid for these lands was $10,000. The reader, in contemplating this vast domain—covered then with valuable timber and a fertile soil as yet untouched—will doubtless come to the conclusion that Uncle Sam was a shrewd "bargain-driver," and that "Poor Lo" was correspondingly "easy." But when we recall that the Greenville treaty bound the Indians to sell the land to no one but the United States, thereby rendering any possible competitor ineligible, the moralist may consider the transaction not quite up to his ethical standard.

As will readily be seen by the Hull treaty given above, all lands in Ohio north of the Maumee river were by said treaty ceded to the United States government—excepting the territory west of a line running due north from the mouth of the Auglaize river. This exception comprised all of the present county of Williams, the greater part of Defiance and a small portion off the west side of Fulton county. In short, it can be said, with a reasonable degree of accuracy, that the Ohio lands north of the Maumee, which remained in lawful possession of the Indians after the Detroit treaty of 1807, comprised the territory included in the original county of Williams. The only change made in creating the latter division was to straighten the southern boundary line and cause it to run due east and west, instead of following the course of the river.

For ten years longer this status of affairs continued, but on September 29, 1817, a treaty was "made and concluded at the foot of the Rapids of the Miami of Lake Erie," between Lewis Cass and Duncan McArthur, commissioners of the United States, on the one part, and the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware. Shawanees, Pottawatomies, Ottawas, and Chippeway tribes of Indians. By the stipulations of this treaty, contained in the first article, the Wyandots ceded to the United States their lands south of the Maumee river. In Art. 2, "The Pottawatomies, Ottawas and Chippeway tribes of Indians," ceded the land described within the following boundaries: "Beginning where the western line of the State of Ohio crosses the River Miami of Lake Erie, which is about twenty-one miles above the mouth of the Great Auglaize river; thence down the middle of the said Miami [Maumee] river, to a point north of the mouth of the Great Auglaize river; thence, with the western line of the land ceded to the United States by the treaty of Detroit, in 1807, north forty-five miles; thence west so far that a line south will strike the place of beginning; thence south to the place of beginning." The consideration paid for the above was an annuity of $1,300 for fifteen years to the Pottawatomies, $1,000 for fifteen years to the Ottawas, and $1,000 for fifteen years to the Chippewas. These three tribes were then the inhabitants of the Williams county territory and they were to receive their annual stipend at Detroit. It will be noticed that this cession included nearly, if not all, of the present county of Hillsdale, in Michigan, but the northern boundary of Ohio was then in dispute and destined to be a subject of contention for a score of years to follow.

The subsequent treaties that were made with the Indians provided for the purchase of their lands in the reservations by the United States and their removal west of the Mississippi; and the fact remains, which is of some historical importance, that Williams was among the last of the present county divisions of the state to pass legally from the control of the Red Man to the dominion of the Anglo-Saxon race. The last Indian title extinguished was that of the Wyandots, whose lands in the reservation at Upper Sandusky, and in the county which bears their name, was offered for sale by the United States in the autumn of 1845. The several Indian tribes were paid various sums of money in annual payments, and were required to vacate the country and migrate west. The last of them to make the journey were the Wyandots, but after the treaty of 1819, the northwestern part of Ohio was open to settlement and the Indians who remained did so as tenants by sufference of their white brothers.

Henry Howe, in his admirable work, entitled "Historical Collections of Ohio," says: "The Delawares ceded their reservations to the United States in 1829. The Wyandots ceded theirs by a treaty made at Upper Sandusky, March 17, 1842, they being the only Indians then remaining in the State. The commissioner on the part of the United States was Colonel John Johnston, who had the honor of making the last Indian treaty in Ohio—a State, every foot of whose soil has been fairly purchased by treaties from its original possessors. The Wyandots left for Kansas in July, 1843, and numbered at that time about seven hundred souls."

On the admission of Ohio to the Federal Union, the public domain, under the conditions named in the charter, was variously classified. The principal divisions were as follows: 1. Congress Lands; 2. United States Military Lands; 3. Virginia Military District; 4. Connecticut Western Reserve; 5. Connecticut Fire Lands; 6. Ohio Company's Purchase; 7. Donation Tract; 8. Symmes Purchase; 9. Refugee Tract; 10. French Grant; 11. Dohrman's Grant; 12. Zane's Grant; 13. Canal Lands; 14. Turnpike Lands; 15. Maumee Road Lands; 16. School Lands; 17. College Lands; 18. Ministerial Lands; 19. Moravian Lands; 20. Salt Sections.

It is not necessary to enter into details regarding these various divisions, except so far as the territory embraced within the scope of this work is affected. *Congress Lands* are so-called because they are sold to purchasers by the immediate officers of the general government, conformably to such laws as are or may be, from time to time, enacted by Congress. They are all regularly surveyed into townships of six miles square each, under authority and at the expense of the National Government. The townships are again subdivided into sections of one mile square, each containing 640 acres, by lines running parallel with the township and range lines. In addition to these divisions, the sections are again subdivided into four equal parts, called the northeast quarter section, southeast quarter section, etc. And again, by a law of Congress which went into effect in July, 1820, these quarter sections are also divided by a north and south line into two equal parts, called the east half quarter section and west half quarter section, containing eighty acres each. It was not until after the war of 1812-15, and the conquest of the Indian territory north of Wayne's treaty line, that surveys were ordered in the northwest section of

Ohio. For this tract a base line was run on or near the forty-first parallel of latitude, corresponding to the south line of the Connecticut Reserve. The ranges were numbered east from the first meridian, being the west line of Ohio, and the towns numbered north and south from the base. Williams county, it will be seen, was included in the reservation known as "Congress Lands," and it might be added that the land within its limits was sold by the Federal government at the statutory price of $1.25 per acre.

Early provisions were made for the support of free schools, and Congress reserved one thirty-sixth part of all lands lying northwest of the Ohio river for their maintenance. These lands, together with other Congressional reservations for the public welfare, became, in later years, the subject of much political speculation, and in many instances were perverted by designing persons from the real purposes intended. Much fruitless legislation resulted, because of the private or personal interests of individuals, without materially enhancing the interests of education. Passing through the varied experiences of speculation, as the early years of statehood passed, the question of school lands was finally systematized by the appointment of honest and conscientious commissioners, and the lands thus became the nucleus of the present magnificent school fund of the state.

We will now return and take up events incidental to the formation, organization and development of Williams county. On February 12, 1820, the General Assembly of the state formed and gave names to fourteen counties, which they carved out of the territory lying north of the Greenville Treaty line and west of the boundary line of the Connecticut Reserve. In selecting names for these counties the legislature evidently referred to the galaxy of Revolutionary patriots, for among them we find such cognomens as Allen, Hancock, Henry, Marion, Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, Williams and others. The last three were of course chosen in honor of the captors of Major Andre, who by their heroic act prevented the surrender of West Point and defeated a treasonable plot at a critical time during our country's struggle for independence. The statute providing for the formation of these counties was entitled, "An Act for the erection of certain counties therein named," and it read thusly:

"Be it enacted, etc., That all that part of the lands lately ceded by the Indians to the United States, which lies within this State, shall be, and the same is hereby erected into fourteen separate and distinct counties to be bounded and named as follows:" (It here proceeds to give the boundaries and names of thirteen of the counties, and continues): "Fourteenth, to include all of the first, second, third and fourth ranges north of the third townships north in said ranges, and to run north with the same to the State line, and to be known by the name of Williams."

Williams county, as will be seen by the description, was erected in the extreme northwestern corner of Ohio, having its northern boundary on Michigan and its western on Indiana. The northern boundary of the county then, as well as the northern boundary of the state, was seriously in dispute, owing to the conflicting claims of Ohio and the territory of Michigan, the former claiming the Harris line and the latter the Fulton line as the true boundary which separated them. The strip of land between these lines comprised the present townships of Northwest, Bridgewater, Madison and Millcreek, in Williams county. The western, southern and eastern boundaries, however, were clearly defined, and therefore Williams county as originally carved out comprised not only all of its present territory (with the four townships named above in dispute), but all of Defiance county, excepting the townships of Adams, Richland, Highland, and a portion of Defiance, and a part of each of three townships—Gorham, Franklin and German—now in Fulton county. Its area then, including the disputed townships, was about 720 square miles, and its population, according to the census of 1820, was 387; but, in fact, we would be safe in saying that at that time the present limits of the county possessed not a white inhabitant.

Although the county of Williams was created by the above mentioned act of the legislature, in 1820, yet it remained unorganized, so far as governmental functions were concerned, until a few years later. The act creating the fourteen counties provided for the organization of only two of them—Wood and Sandusky—and it provided that "the counties of Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding and Williams shall be attached to the county of Wood" for civil purposes. It provided further, "that the temporary seat of justice for said county of Wood shall be fixed at the town of Maumee, until commissioners shall be appointed by the General Assembly to fix the permanent seat of justice." This legislation by further provision of the same act went into effect on April 1, 1820, and from that date the seat of justice of the counties of northwestern Ohio was in the ancient and historical town of Maumee, where it remained for about three years and then crossed the river to Perrysburg. At a session of the Board of Commissioners of Wood county, held March 19, 1823, it was ordered "that so much of the township of Waynesfield as is included in the organized county of Wood, and lying and being on the south of the south channel of Maumee river, from the west line of the county to the line between the original surveyed township, in Nos. 1 and 4, in the United States reserve; thence, the north channel to the state line, be set off and organized into a township, by the name of Perrysburg." The seat of justice was then established at Perrysburg; but this was of concern to Williams county for only a short time, as in a few months she was destined to blossom forth as a fully organized county, and be given civil jurisdiction over a surface that now embraces portions of six well settled and prosperous counties.

Of the Indian tribes inhabiting the Maumee valley when the first definite knowledge of the country was acquired, the Miamis were the most prominent, while the Wyandots and Ottawas were represented in fewer numbers. Later, other tribes made their appearance, particularly in that part which is now Williams county, and it was with the Pottawatamies, Ottawas and Chippewas that the pioneers of this immediate section had to deal. These three tribes had possession at the time of the final treaties, and it was with them that negotiations were made providing for the Indian exodus. They were slow to join with the tide of westward emigration, however, and for many years afterwards, wandering bands would annually visit their old hunting grounds in Williams county, and their intercourse with the settlers came to be regarded more as an occasion of pleasant remembrances than of dread or danger. Some pleasant friendships were formed between the pioneer families and the former owners of the land which the pale-face was tilling.

CHAPTER III

THE FORMATIVE PERIOD

ON FEBRUARY 2, 1824, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio passed an act providing as follows:

"That the county of Williams shall be organized, and the counties of Henry, Putnam and Paulding shall be attached thereto for judicial purposes.

"That on the first Monday of April next the legal electors residing in the counties of Williams, Henry, Paulding and Putnam, shall assemble within their respective townships, at the usual place of holding elections, and shall proceed to elect their several county and township officers, who shall hold their several offices until the next annual election.

"That the courts of the above named counties shall be held at Defiance, in the county of Williams, until otherwise provided by law," etc.

At that time there were but four official positions in the county, the incumbents of which were required to run the gauntlet of popular approval and have their merits passed upon at the ballot box. These four elective positions were auditor, coroner, sheriff and board of commissioners. The first election to fill these positions was held "on the first Monday of April," as ordered, and the balloting resulted as follows: For auditor, Timothy S. Smith received 37 votes, and H. Jerome, 26 votes; for coroner, Arthur Burras 6 votes, John Oliver 40 votes, and Thomas Warren 17 votes; for sheriff, James Shirley 14 votes, and William Preston, 48 votes; for commissioners, Jesse Hilton 58 votes, Cyrus Hunter 37 votes, Charles Gunn 31 votes, Montgomery Evans 28 votes, Benjamin Leavell 26 votes, William Hunter 4 votes, and John Oliver 1 vote. So it will be seen that the men who first donned the official garments at the behest of vox populi in Williams county, were: auditor, Timothy S. Smith; coroner, John Oliver; sheriff, William Preston; commissioners, Jesse Hilton, Cyrus Hunter and Charles Gunn. The first constitution of the State, which was then in force, provided for the election of only two—sheriff and coroner—but gave to the Legislature power to create other positions and prescribe the mode of filling them. All of the county offices, excepting the four named, were at that time appointive, and the first incumbent of each will be mentioned at the proper place in the course of this narrative; but as a matter of interest at this time, and for the purpose of showing the number of places provided for those who desired office, we will give the list, which in addition to the foregoing was as follows: Assessor, Clerk of Courts, Keeper of Standard Measure, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Surveyor, Collector and Treasurer. The first session of the commissioners of the newly organized county convened at Defiance on the 7th day of June, 1824, "which was the first Monday, agreeably to law," as the ancient record of the proceedings puts it. This record is well preserved in the county auditor's office at Bryan. The gentlemen who composed this first board of commissioners, as stated heretofore, were Charles Gunn, Jesse Hilton and Cyrus Hunter, and the first county auditor, who acted as clerk for the board and recorded the proceedings, was Timothy S. Smith. The first official act of the board was recorded as follows:

"A petition being presented, it was hereby ordered by the Board of Commissioners that a township be set off in the county of Henry, now attached to the county of Williams, by the name of Richland township, to include the west half of Henry county aforesaid. An election is ordered by said Board, to be held at Camp No. 3, at the house of Foreman Evans, on Friday, the 18th day of June next, agreeably to law, for township officers."

They next set off a township in the Williams county territory and gave it the name of Delaware (now Defiance county); following which, they proceeded to appoint William Preston—who also held the office of sheriff—collector of taxes for the county. This gentleman appeared, gave bond, with John Oliver and Moses Rice as sureties, after which he took the oath of office. Thereupon, Moses Rice was appointed County Treasurer and was sworn in—first giving bond, with Cyrus Hunter and Charles Gunn as sureties.

Moses Rice, who was thus given the distinction of being the first custodian of the county funds, was in a peculiar situation in regard to the question of his citizenship. Born in the colony of Virginia, September 1, 1780—at a time when the "Old Dominion" was claimed by King George, although in open rebellion—he was taken to Canada before the question of sovereignty was settled. There he grew to manhood, enlisted in the military service and rose to the rank of lieutenant in the British or Canadian army. In 1817 he migrated to the United States and settled in Henry county, Ohio (which became attached to Williams for judicial purposes), and in 1824 was honored by his associates in the manner and form as stated above. Whether political opponents charged him with being an alien or envious mortals sought to oust him from his lucrative(?) job, we do not know, but he held the office for exactly one year, and on October 31, 1825, went into court and renounced forever all allegiance to princes, potentates, etc., more especially King George the Fourth.

In addition to the transaction of other business, which is of minor importance in a historical sense, the commissioners, at this first session, took up the question of providing for a county jail—a matter that was destined, however, to remain undecided until the establishment of a permanent seat of justice by the proper legal authority. Specifications were drawn for a bastile, which it was thought would meet the modest requirements of that early day, and the contract was let.

For some reason not given in the record, this contract was "disanulled" at a special meeting held on October 5, and a new sale was ordered, but on October 26, the commissioners met again and instructed the auditor to discontinue all proceedings in regard to the jail until further orders, and nothing more was done concerning it until the June session of 1825.

Several roads were petitioned for at the first meeting of the Commissioners, and, the services of a surveyor being important, John Perkins was appointed and filled that position for years. Thomas Philbrick was appointed Keeper of the Standard Measure.

The October election resulted in a slight change in the personnel of the Board of Commissioners—Captain Benjamin Leavell succeeding Jesse Hilton as one of the members. Captain Leavell, prior to his removal to Williams county was a resident of Piqua, Ohio. In company with Horatio G. Phillips, of Dayton, he made his first trip to this section of the state, and in November, 1822, laid out the town of Defiance. This was eighteen months before Williams county was organized, but so favorably impressed was Captain Leavell with its future prospects that he decided to make it his home. He became the owner of considerable real estate in Defiance and vicinity and was a leading spirit in county affairs until 1835, when he disposed of his interests and moved away.

The December session of the Commissioners was held at the dwelling of Captain Leavell, on Monday, December 6, 1824. The first act was to cast lots for the long and shorter official terms, and this resulted in the Captain winning the three year term, Mr. Gunn the two and Mr. Hunter the one year term. The other business transacted at this session related only to the establishment of county roads—in fact, projects for new roads chiefly engrossed the time of the sessions held during many years following.

At the June session, 1825, William Seemans was "appointed treasurer in and for the county of Williams," succeeding him of the foreign allegiance, and Samuel Vance was appointed collector of the county tax for that year. The treasurer-elect immediately gave bond and took the oath of office June 7, 1825; but as Vance had been appointed county assessor at the March term of the court of Common Pleas, and had accordingly made the assessment, we presume that he did not care to meet the property owners a second time in a different though coordinate official capacity. At any rate, "a sale was ordered by the commissioners for the collction of the county tax," and John Blair was the lucky (or lowest) bidder. The job was taken at 6 per cent, and "said Blair came forward on the 20th day of July and gave bond as law directs."

Samuel Vance, who was honored by being the first man selected to make an assessment of the property in Williams county, came from a family of more than local renown, his brother—Joseph Vance—serving many years in Congress, and as Governor of Ohio from 1836 to 1838. Samuel Vance was a pioneer in the Maumee Valley, of a Scotch-Irish strain of blood, and was a native of Pennsylvania. After coming to Ohio he had considerable to do with public affairs and at one time was register of the United States Land Office at Fort Wayne.

Moses Rice was allowed three dollars as his percentage for acting as treasurer the preceding year, and the listers of the several townships were allowed from $12 to $1.87½ for their services in listing and appraising the land.

The town of Defiance had been made the temporary seat of justice for Williams county when the latter was organized, but the question of a permanent site agitated the public mind considerably during the years of 1824-25. Owing to this uncertainty no public buildings were erected—court being held in a warehouse—and the construction of a county jail, as mentioned before, was postponed indefinitely. During the session of the State legislature, which convened on the first Monday of December, 1824, a resolution was passed appointing Joseph C. Hawkins of Preble county, Forest Meeker of Delaware county, and Robert Morrison of Miami county, "commissioners to locate and establish the permanent seat of justice for the county of Williams." In pursuance of this resolution, two of the commissioners named—J. C. Hawkins and Robert Morrison—entered upon the work assigned them. A number of localities presented their claims for consideration; but after an examination of the different sites, Messrs. Hawkins and Morrison, on October 20, 1825, rendered their decision and selected the town of Defiance as the seat of justice, with the condition that the proprietors—H. G. Phillips and Benjamin Leavell—comply with certain agreements.

Messrs. Phillips and Leavell agreed, in consideration of the county seat being permanently established at Defiance, to deed to the commissioners of the county forty town lots, which was one equal third part of all the lots on the plat of said town, and to erect for the county a good substantial jail, of certain dimensions, on the public square. They further agreed to allow the county to use the upper loft of their warehouse for a court room until a better place could be secured.

At the June session of the Board of County Commissioners, while the question of the location of the seat of justice was pending, it was ordered that a jail for the county of Williams be erected "as soon as the permanent seat of justice shall be established," the dimensions of the building "to be twenty-six by eighteen feet, nine feet between floors, with a partition of the same dimensions as the walls, and two grate windows, eighteen by ten inches, with five iron bars to each window," etc. There appears to have been no disagreement between the county's legislative body and Messrs. Phillips and Leavell on this matter, and at a special meeting, held on July 21, 1826, the Commissioners ordered "that the jail be and is hereby received from Benjamin Leavell & Co., and is completed according to contract in the town of Defiance."

Timothy S. Smith was paid, by order of the County Commissioners at their June session in 1825, the sum of $29 for his services as auditor of the county and clerk to the board. The emoluments of office in those days were not very attractive in Williams county. Mr. Smith resigned his position a couple of months later, and on August 22, Thomas Philbrick was appointed to serve as auditor until the next election. Benjamin Leavell resigned the office of commissioner, also, and the Court of Common Pleas appointed Isaiah Hughes to fill the vacancy. A spirited contest followed, at the ensuing October election, for the offices of auditor and county commissioner. Isaac Hull, Jr., a relative of Governor Hull—of Detroit surrender fame—George Lantz and William Seemans were the candidates for auditor; and the balloting resulted in Hull receiving 28 votes, Lantz, 26, and Seemans, 20. For commissioners, there were three candidates and two vacancies to be filled—Cyrus Hunter being a candidate to succeed himself. Isaiah Hughes received 62 votes, Cyrus Hunter 60, and Montgomery Evans 31; Hughes and Hunter, of course, being elected.

Samuel Philbrick, who had been appointed to succeed Timothy S. Smith as auditor, was unable for some reason to assume the duties of the office, and the record shows that "the Board met and proceeded to appoint George Lantz county auditor pro tem.—in lieu of Thomas Philbrick, in case of his inability—who immediately took the oath of office and gave bond." This session, held October 15, 1825, was a short one, and the account of the business transacted is given as follows: "Commissioners convened and proceeded to settle with Samuel Vance, Esq., county assessor, and ordered that said Vance be allowed for thirteen days' services, and that he receive an order on the county treasury for twenty-six dollars." The next meeting was held on Monday, December 5, 1825. It was ordered that "Clark Philbrick be allowed for his services in making a half bushel measure and brand for the county, the sum of two dollars." The owners of the town of Defiance having donated forty town lots to the county, the Commissioners ordered them offered for sale at public auction on the first Monday in February, 1826. At the meeting of the Board in March "it was ordered that Sheriff Preston be allowed his account of $3.20 for taking charge, discharging prisoners and advertising an election."

At the meeting of the Commissioners, on June 5, 1826, Isaac Hull, Jr., appears as county auditor, he having been elected to that position at the October balloting. The Board proceeded to business and ordered that William Seemans be allowed ten dollars and forty-six cents for his services as county treasurer, while for serving in the capacity of county auditor, George Lantz was allowed the munificent sum of twelve dollars. It was "also ordered that James W. Craig be and is hereby appointed standard measurer." With the write-up of this meeting also appears the minutes of the sale of town lots made on February 6, and we find that of the forty lots offered only seven were sold, viz.: Lot No. 4, to William Preston for $80; lot No. 12, to Samuel Vance, for $41; lot No. 58, to John Perkins, for $40; lot No. 64, to Samuel Vance, for $85; lot No. 101, to John Perkins, $71; lot No. 107, to John Oliver, for $36; lot No. 61, to Robert and Nathan Shirley, for $77.

It seems that William Seemans had by this time grown tired of the arduous labors, incident to the official position of county treasurer, or perhaps in his opinion the annual stipend was not commensurate. At any rate the record of this meeting says that "It is also ordered by the Board of Commissioners that Benjamin Leavell be, and he is hereby appointed county treasurer for the county of Williams." Samuel Vance was reimbursed by being "allowed the sum of thirty-four dollars for his services as county assessor, and William Preston was appointed county collector. As an index to the financial transactions of the county the record shows that "The Board of Commissioners compared the treasurer's and auditor's books and find that orders have been issued to the amount of one thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars and twenty-two and one-fourth cents, and orders redeemed amount to four hundred fifty-six dollars four and one-fourth cents, leaving a balance of six hundred and sixty-nine dollars and eighteen cents."

Between the close of the June session of the Board of Commissioners, in 1826, and a special session held on July 21, of the same year, Isaiah Hughes mysteriously disappeared—from the records. Neither his death nor resignation is chronicled, nor is the appointment of his successor, Nathan Shirley, whose name appears as commissioner in the record of the July meeting. By what authority Shirley became a member of the Board is not clear, as the Court of Common Pleas, which alone had the appointing power, had no session, of which a record was made, between the dates mentioned. But, like the man confined in jail, he was there; and it is probably not within the province of the historian "to reason why," when he discovers anomalous records of public affairs.

On October 9, 1826, Elias Shirley was appointed by the Court of Common Pleas assessor for the county of Williams. His bond was approved on the following day by two of the commissioners and he accordingly entered upon the duties of the office.

At the autumn election, held October 14, 1826, a sheriff, coroner and two commissioners were elected. For the office of sheriff six aspirants were voted for, William Preston receiving 64 votes, George Lantz 4, Arthur Burrows 13, William Graham 1, Pierce Taylor 1, and William Hunter 1. For coroner John Oliver received 11 votes, William Hunter 6, Robert Wasson 18, and Moses Rice 1. For commissioner Montgomery Evans received 76 votes, Nathan Shirley 81, Oliver Crane 40, Charles Gunn 1, and Samuel Vance 28—Shirley and Evans being the winners. Cyrus Hunter resigned as commissioner immediately after election and Jesse Hilton was appointed to succeed him, so that when the commissioners met in their December session an entire new board appeared. They cast lots "to determine their times of services"—Nathan Shirley succeeding Charles Gunn and Montgomery Evans taking the place of Isaiah Hughes.

During the preceding month (November 18) the commissioners had met "and proceeded to appoint Geo. Lantz county auditor in room of Isaac Hull, Jr., resigned." At the March meeting, 1827, John Canning, who had taken the oath of allegiance but a few months before, was appointed county assessor, which position he held until the June following, when he resigned, his three months' occupancy of the office increasing his exchequer by the sum of $23.44.

Office holding in old Williams county in those days was not very remunerative, and aside from the honor and distinction which attends the holding of an official position there was not enough in it to attract the ordinary mortal. This fact, it seems, was fully realized, and at the June session of 1827, aside from the resignation mentioned above, Benjamin Leavell gave up the office of county treasurer and George Lantz resigned that of county auditor. Robert Wasson was appointed to succeed the former and James W. Craig the latter.

On September 10, 1827, the commissioners met for the purpose, as stated in the record, "of making arrangement to procure a lock for the jail of the Co. of Williams." They instructed the auditor to purchase such lock, and further ordered him to "procure the necessary irons to secure criminals in prison, as soon as convenient."

In the record of a meeting held on November 17, a new name appears as commissioner—that of Sebastian Sroufe. The name of Jesse Hilton disappears, he having probably "fell outside the breastworks" at the recent October election, while he of the undoubted lineage "marched proudly to victory." At this November meeting the board allowed the bills of Pierce Taylor, amounting to fifty-two dollars, for "finding nails" and repairing the court house. The board also did "sanction the bonds" of the new county assessor, William Preston. At the regular December meeting the board decided that an order be drawn on the treasury for $1.50 to pay for a padlock for the use of the jail. So it appears that a special meeting of the commissioners had been held in September for the sole purpose of ordering the purchase of a dollar-and-a-half padlock. Another peculiar entry in the record of this December meeting is the following: "The bord order the Auditors of Williams County to have a rit of atachment ishued against the gods and chatels, moneys, etc., belonging to William Marshal, who broke custody from the jail of Williams county, in order to make money to defray the expencis acrued by detaining the said Marshal in custody."

At the June meeting of the board of commissioners, in 1828, a new county auditor was appointed. The record does not state whether the incumbent resigned or was removed, but it is certain that he did not die, for the record of this meeting was written by him, and the following entry, which is given verbatim, concerning the selection of his successor, certainly proves that he deserved removal upon the grounds of incompetency: "The bord appoint Foreman Evans Auduter of Williams County in the rume of James W. Craig, who is here by authorized to receive all the book and papers relative to said office that remains in the hands of Jas. W. Craig." We submit that the "rume" which Mr. Evans was called upon to fill was of decidedly small capacity.

The first, last and only entry made by the new auditor was a record of the amount of orders redeemed by the county each year, beginning with 1824 and ending with 1827. The orders redeemed by the county treasurer in 1824 amounted to $99.64; in 1825, $261.93¾; in 1826, $365.55¼; in 1827, $259.27, making the total amount redeemed $986.40 during the four years since the organization of the county. The amount of orders issued during the same time was $2,279.02¾, thus leaving a balance against the county, due and unpaid, of $1,292.62¾. It may reasonably be inferred from these facts that county orders at that time were at a heavy discount. Coming to the Williams county of 1905, shorn of its original dimensions as it has been—by the erection of Defiance and Fulton counties—it is interesting in the way of comparison, and for the purpose of showing development, to call attention to the financial status of the county at the close of the fiscal year, which ended August 31, 1904. The orders issued upon the treasury during the year amounted to $264,472.09, all of which were redeemed at par, excepting $5.900.77, which had not been presented for redemption at the close of the year. Against this seeming indebtedness, however, the treasury contained cash to the amount of $31,570.24, leaving a clear surplus of $25,669.47. Eighty years of Williams county history has worked wondrous changes, and nowhere are they more apparent to the present generation than in comparisons such as the above.

When the board again met in December, 1828, the first duty that devolved upon them was the appointment of a new county auditor, and Granville Edmiston was the recipient of their favor. It was then ordered "that Thos. F. Hill receive an order from the County Auditor on the Treasurer for seven dollars, for a lock for the jail, and that the county auditor have the said lock repaired and placed on the jail door." Another October election had recently been held, and the name of Payne C. Parker appears as commissioner, succeeding Sebastian Sroufe.

As the county's business grew in importance the commissioners met more frequently in special sessions, but the business they transacted was usually in regard to opening roads, allowing orders on the treasury, etc.—acts that contain very little if any historical interest. But as the record of their proceedings is about the only thing extant that throws light upon the county's affairs in its days of infancy, an occasional reference to or extract from this record will come properly within the scope of this chapter. At a special meeting on April 27, 1829, it was ordered by the board that "a table and desk be made for the use of the court house, and that Wm. Meeker be allowed sixteen dollars for making the same in a workmanlike manner by the first Monday in June." The table was to be eight feet long and four feet wide, and the desk three feet and a half long, two feet high and eighteen inches deep. Both were to be made of black walnut.

The financial straits in which the county found itself at that time seems to have given the commissioners considerable annoyance; but probably the holders of orders, outstanding and unredeemed, did the greater part of the floor-walking. At the June session, in 1829, an effort was made to appease the desires of the county's creditors, and they were given permission to "consolidate these orders into one, providing they would pay the expense of making the change and agree not to demand payment until sufficient funds were in the treasury to pay the total amount." Whether the creditors decided that "in union there is strength," or concluded to continue their efforts to collect what was due them, individually, does not appear.

The reader has been given some idea, in the foregoing pages, concerning the compensation allowed the county officials while acting in such capacity. The salaries paid were not very tempting, it is true, but probably they were sufficient, when the little time and attention demanded is taken into consideration. It seems, however, that in that early day there were men who looked upon a public office as a private snap, and the guardians of the treasury—the commissioners—were soon called upon to bring certain officials to time and ask them to disgorge various sums belonging to the county, and which they were accused of having in their possession, unlawfully. In 1829, at the June session of the board, the auditor was instructed to make a demand of Cyrus Hunter and Charles Gunn "for money over-paid for services as commissioners to the county of Williams," and in case of their refusal to hand over the money the auditor was authorized to commence suit against them. It is probable that this incident resulted from an error, either clerical or of judgment, and that the gentlemen promptly reimbursed the treasury with the amounts charged against them, for no further mention is made of it in the succeeding pages of the record.

But in their examinations of the financial affairs of the county at this time the commissioners discovered what seemed to them to be willful malfeasance on the part of the county auditor, Granville Edmiston, who had been filling that position for over a year. At the October election Montgomery Evans was succeeded in the office of county commissioner by Pierce Evans, and at its December meeting the board started the investigation of Mr. Edmiston's official conduct. Upon the third day of the session the gentleman resigned his position as auditor—probably by request—and William Seemans was appointed in his stead. The board then ordered the new county auditor to furnish the county treasurer with a list of the orders recorded by Edmiston and instructed the treasurer not to receive any orders drawn on him and signed by said Edmiston unless they appeared on such list. The auditor was then instructed to advertise in Maumee, Perrysburg, Piqua, Columbus, Chillicothe and Defiance, notifying the public that there were spurious orders in circulation, issued by Granville Edmiston, ex-county auditor, and asking that such orders be presented, "as soon as practicable to the county treasurer for endorsement, that the fraud may be discovered to its full extent." The board further ordered that a precipe be filed for a writ against Edmiston and his bondsmen to recover the amount charged against them. Action was accordingly commenced against Edmiston and his bondsmen, which resulted in a judgment against the defendants and the reimbursement to the county of the amount of the fraudulent orders.

As counsel and attorney for the commissioners in this matter, the board employed Thomas W. Powell, then a young member of the bar at Perrysburg—at that time the county seat of Wood county. Mr. Powell served as prosecuting attorney of Wood county, in which capacity he won distinction. In 1830 he removed from Perrysburg to Delaware, and later represented that constituency in the state legislature. He became one of the leading lawyers of the state, and his son, Thomas E. Powell, was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio in 1887.

The region north of the Maumee, in those early years, had an exceedingly small white population, and consequently small influence with the boards of commissioners; and it was not until late in 1830 that cognizance was taken of it, either in organizing townships or opening county roads. But at the December session, in 1830, in response to a petition presented to the board, a new township was organized bounded as follows: "To take off one range off of the west boundary of Crane township, and to include said ranges north of Maumee river to the Michigan line and south to the south boundary of Paulding county; which said township shall be called Carryall township." The commissioners doubtless intended the name to be suggestive, for their act carried jurisdiction over all of what is now Northwest, Florence and St. Joseph townships, in Williams county, Milford and Hicksville in Defiance, and the west tier of townships in Paulding.

Although the seat of justice had been in the town of Defiance since the organization of the county, in 1824, no steps were taken towards the building of a court house until the March session of the county commissioners, in 1831. Prior to this date a warehouse on the bank of the river had been used as a meeting place for the courts of justice. At this March session, however, "the Board ordered that there be a sale of building a court house in the town of Defiance on the 9th day of April next; to-wit, a house thirty-two feet long, twenty-two feet wide and twenty feet high from foundation to the squaw." Upon the above date the contract was let to Payne C. Parker at $699.90, but for some reason it was not carried out, and at the June session of the same year the board ordered another sale, with the same specifications as described before, only adding "that the said building be composed of good merchantable brick and other substantial materials." At this second sale Foreman Evans was the lowest bidder and secured the contract at $987. The time set for the completion of the building was August 1, 1832, but this was afterwards extended to October 1, of the same year. Upon September 21, ten days before the time limit had expired, Mr. Evans reported his work as completed, but the commissioners upon examination were not satisfied. The proper changes and improvements being made, however, they accepted the building at their December meeting.

A year earlier than this, in December, 1831, upon application, a new township named Tiffin was erected with the following boundaries: "On the south by township 4 north in range 4 east, and extend north to the north boundary of Williams county, including range 4 east." This territory, aside from that portion which is in Defiance county, included the present townships of Springfield, Brady and Millcreek in Williams county.

Prior to this date, not one dollar had been appropriated out of the road fund given by the state for the erection of a bridge or the improvement of a road within the present limits of Williams county. But as the tide of immigration was now flowing in this direction, a demand was naturally made for roads. Accordingly, at the December session of the commissioners, in 1831, an application was made by Foreman Evans and others, "for a county road, to be located from Defiance northward up Bean Creek, alias Tiffin river, to the north boundary of the state of Ohio." The commissioners heeded the petition and appointed a surveyor and three viewers to go over the route and examine it and report at the next session in March. John Perkins had been appointed as the surveyor, but owing to disability he was unable to perform the duty and hence delay was caused.

The petitioners filed a new bond at the March meeting and John Perkins was re-appointed as surveyor, with John Plummer, Samuel Kepler and Payne C. Parker as viewers, and they were instructed to report at the June session. At the appointed time, in June, 1832, these gentlemen reported favorably upon the project, and the record shows that their report "having been read on two several days of this session, and, their being no notice of appeal, the commissioners order the auditor to record the same according to law." This was the first public highway, approved of by the commissioners, that extended into the present limits of Williams county; but five years were destined to elapse before any financial aid was voted towards improving the road. This road entered the Williams county of to-day at Evansport and then followed the Tiffin river by the present site of Stryker and thence on to the state line. Other roads having been surveyed and located in the meantime—one entering the town of Lafayette (Pulaski), another leading from Williams Center and a third connecting Denmark with the outside world—at the March session of the board in 1837, John Stubbs was appointed a road commissioner and endowed with $275 which he was instructed to expend in this particular territory. The ice being broken, roads continued to be opened with increasing frequency, and immigration keeping steady pace, the development was started that has resulted in the splendid county we boast of to-day.

It will not be out of place here to give a few facts concerning some of the leading men who assisted in the direction of affairs at this time. Montgomery Evans, who served as county commissioner from 1826 to 1829, and again from 1831 to 1836, was a member of the Evans family, spoken of elsewhere in this work. He established himself in business, as an Indian trader, farmer, and real estate dealer, in Defiance, in 1818 or 1819, occupying as a residence during the first two years, one of the block-houses erected by General Winchester, while the latter was in command at that point. Mr. Evans was a soldier in the war of 1812, enlisting at Chillicothe in a company of rangers.

Pierce Evans, also county commissioner during the early years, removed from Ross county to the head of the rapids of the Maumee, and resided there during the years 1822 and 1823. He then removed to a farm near Defiance, where he spent the remainder of his life. In addition to his service as county commissioner, he was one of the three associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Williams county when said court was first held at Defiance. A somewhat extended sketch of Payne C. Parker will be found upon another page, but we wish at this time to call attention to this useful and versatile man. Born in the world's metropolis, in his youth he became a pioneer on the western border of civilization. He assisted in surveying the route for the first highway that opened up the present county of Williams, and then taking up his residence here, lived a useful life among the first settlers. As judge, physician, merchant, teacher or preacher, he proved his fitness for the calling, and probably no man among the early pioneers had a more extended acquaintance or was more highly esteemed.

John Stubbs, the first road commissioner in the present county limits, and one of the early pioneers, was born in Orange county, N. Y., August 12, 1784. His father, a gentleman of Welsh descent, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and the son was captain of a company of state militia during the war of 1812. In 1832 Mr. Stubbs entered nearly 1,000 acres of land in what is now Springfield township, this county, and came with his family and settled upon it in the spring of 1833. He was a resident of Springfield township from that date to his death, January 26, 1864, filling many township offices, and in 1835 was elected commissioner of the county, which position he held during a three-year term.

Another gentleman who was prominently identified with Williams county during its formative period, and one to whose skill as a surveyor the early settlers were greatly indebted, was Miller Arrowsmith. Born in Champaign county, Ohio, March 14, 1808, he made his first visit to Williams county in June, 1833. He then bought land near Defiance and settled on it during the October following. Judge John Perkins was county surveyor, as he had been since the organization of the county, but owing to advanced age he desired to relinquish the duties and Mr. Arrowsmith was appointed in his stead. For fifteen years Miller Arrowsmith discharged the duties of the office with accuracy and fidelity, and he personally surveyed all the roads, with but few if any exceptions, that opened up the present limits of Williams county to her hardy pioneers. The General Assembly of Ohio, at its session of 1845-46, elected him a member of the State Board of Equalization, and he proved one of the most efficient members of that body. He served as Auditor of Defiance county from 1848 to 1852, and filled other positions of trust. After retiring from his official duties, he engaged in agriculture in Farmer township, Defiance county, and spent the remainder of his life there.

At the December meeting of the board of commissioners, in 1833, Jesse Hilton again appeared as commissioner, having been appointed by the common pleas court to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of James W. Craig. In the demise of the latter the county lost a useful citizen and one that was devoted to her interests. A man of meager education—as is evidenced by his chirography and orthography, preserved in the county records—he performed the duties assigned him in official capacities to the best of his ability and no charge of dishonesty in office was ever made against him. It will not be out of place to state here that Mr. Craig was the purchaser of the first piece of land, the deed of which is recorded among the present Williams county transfers.

Until this time (December, 1833) no township had been erected in the present limits of Williams county. True the territory was included in other formations, but the names representing the divisions are no longer used or else are to be found in the township nomenclature of Defiance county. At the session of the board, of which we now write, however, it was ordered "that there be a new township erected and organized by the name of St. Joseph's township." St. Joseph has therefore the distinction of being the oldest of the townships in the present limits of the county, but at the time of its organization the territory thus named included what is now Milford and Farmer townships in Defiance county, besides St. Joseph, Center, Florence and Superior, in Williams. Beaver township (name afterwards changed to Pulaski) was organized at the March session of the board, in 1834, and included the present townships of Pulaski and Jefferson and north to the state line—said line being then in dispute.

Full particulars of this boundary controversy is given elsewhere in a special chapter, but for the purpose of elucidation it may be stated here that in February, 1835, the General Assembly passed an act extending the jurisdiction of the State to the Harris (the present boundary) line, and ordering the erection of townships in the disputed territory. Accordingly, on March 30, 1835, the board of commissioners of Williams county "met in special session for the purpose of extending the northern boundaries of townships to the line called Harris Line, and for erecting a new township in said county, in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided." The townships of St. Joseph and Beaver (now Pulaski) were extended in jurisdiction to the Harris Line, thus making the present townships of Bridgewater and Northwest a part of St. Joseph and placing Madison within the boundaries of Beaver. The new township erected was given the name of Springfield, and included, besides its present limits, the townships of Brady and Millcreek, and the strip of land afterwards given to Fulton county.

One year later, in March, 1836, the Board of Commissioners organized the township of "Bradie" (Brady), its boundary lines to include not only its present limits, but Millcreek township and the territory afterwards detached and annexed to Fulton county. By this action of the commissioners Springfield township was reduced to its present size, and hence can be said to be the oldest compact township organization in the present county of Williams. Center township was also organized at this meeting and made to include what are now the townships of Center, Superior and Bridgewater. At the same session, Washington township was erected, comprising the territory of the present township of that name in Defiance county and the township of Pulaski in addition. This left Beaver township as the official cognomen of the territory now included in Jefferson and Madison. This arrangement continued but a short time, however, for at the following June meeting of the board the territory now comprising Pulaski township was detached from Washington and re-annexed to Beaver township, making the boundary lines of the latter the same as when originally erected.

At the March session, in 1837, the commissioners erected and organized the township of Florence, its boundary lines including the present townships of Florence, Superior, Bridgewater and Northwest. This reduced Center township to its present limits, and by the erection of Milford township (now in Defiance county) St. Joseph was also trimmed down to its proper congressional size.

The county at this time was of course in its formative period, and immigration was constantly increasing its population. The carving of territory and the organization of new townships serve as an index to the rapid development being made between the years 1835 and 1840. Selfish interests doubtless gave birth to conflicting demands on the part of the people, but the commissioners seem to have been equal to the task, their actions being tempered with deliberation and their authority exercised with even-handed justice. At the June session, in 1837, a township was organized and given the name of Jefferson, the described boundaries taking in practically the territory now included in Jefferson and Madison. This left Beaver township with exactly the limits of the present Pulaski, but for some reason this arrangement was unsatisfactory to those directly interested, and accordingly a special meeting of the board was called on August 7, following, to hear and pass upon the complaints. The meeting resulted in the commissioners ordering "that the south half of the south tier of sections" in Jefferson township be added to Beaver, and that the name of the latter be changed to Pulaski. At the December session of the same year, however, "the board took into consideration the petition of sundry citizens of Town 7 [Jefferson], in the county of Williams, praying that the boundary lines of said township might be so altered as to include the same territory included in the original survey of said township, and the board order that the prayer of said petitioners be granted."

No other change in township names or boundaries was made until the March session of the Board of Commissioners, in 1839, when, "Upon application made by W. H. B. Smith, and others, the board order that there be a new township erected and organized, to be known and distinguished by the name of Bridgewater." The boundaries described included the present townships of Bridgewater and

Northwest. The board also, at this session, "upon application of Alanson Pike and others," erected the township of Millcreek. This new division began at the eastern boundary of Bridgewater and included the present townships of Madison and Millcreek, together with a tier of sections off the west side of Gorham township, now in Fulton county. This act of the commissioners also reduced Jefferson and Brady townships to the size contemplated by the congressional survey.

At the next session of the board, in June, 1839, upon the petition of George Bible and others, Superior township was formed, with boundaries describing the township exactly as it is to-day. This also reduced Florence township to its present size. At the December session, in 1840, the township of Northwest was erected and organized, leaving Bridgewater in its present limits. Later, there was a slight misunderstanding in regard to the boundary line between Northwest and Bridgewater, but this was settled at the June session of 1842, the line being located where it is now. At the March session of 1843, Madison township was organized, comprising all of its present territory and the west tier of sections, now in Millcreek township. These sections were afterwards annexed to Millcreek, and with a few other slight changes in boundary lines, which were subsequently made, the organization of the present territory of Williams county was complete.

But before going to subsequent events we will retrace our steps and record a few incidents that should be given a place in the narrative of the early days. Hard as it is for the compiler of history to glean his facts from ancient records—often but an imperfect mention of careless official acts—he is not the only one who suffers. As a case in point we relate the following: At the October election, 1831, William Dawson was chosen as county treasurer. He gave bond and took the oath of office on the first Monday of June, 1832. He was re-elected in 1833 and again in 1835, serving until June, 1838. When he turned the office over to his successor it was found that he was a defaulter. Action was commenced against him and his bondsmen for the amount of his defalcation, when it was discovered that there was no record of his bond having been approved as required by law, or of his having taken the oath of office at the beginning of his last term. In fact, the defense against the action in Common Pleas court was, that as his bond had not been approved and he had not taken the oath of office, he had not been county treasurer at all, and therefore the county should be defeated in its efforts to collect the amount sued for. The Common Pleas court took the same view of the matter—ruling out parole evidence that tended to establish the fact that the bond had been approved and the oath of office taken—and rendered a verdict in favor of Dawson and his bondsmen. The Supreme Court, however, took a different view, reversing the decision and ordering a new trial, in which the county was given a judgment for $1,379.81.

In justice to Mr. Dawson, however, it should be stated that no criminal charge was ever preferred, the inference being that he was exonerated from the suspicion of criminal intent. When we associate this incident with the time in which it occurred, the year following the panic of 1837, when ruin stalked throughout the land and financial failures were everywhere, circumstances can be easily imagined out of which might grow unfortunate situations, such as the one detailed above. William Dawson was a native of Kentucky, born in 1797, and migrated to Ohio in early manhood, locating for a time in London, Madison county. He came to Williams county about 1830, settling at Defiance, where he engaged in milling for a number of years. He then turned his attention to farming, which he followed the remainder of his life. He died in 1881 at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

John Lewis, who succeeded Mr. Dawson as county treasurer, served in that capacity about nine months. Upon the examination of his books by the commissioners at their March session, 1839, a considerable shortage was discovered; and it appearing that Lewis had "swartwouted or absconded" (as the court records state it), Sidney S. Sprague—an early citizen and enterprising business man of Defiance—was appointed to fill the vacancy. Action was then brought in the Common Pleas Court against the bondsmen of Lewis and judgment was rendered for $613.14.

As to the name of the first man who became a permanent settler within the present limits of Williams county there are conflicting claims, each of which is taken up and given due prominene in the township histories which comprise separate chapters in this work. From them the reader can get the facts and decide the mooted question to his own satisfaction, according to the weight of evidence as it appears to him. But, speaking of the county in its entirety, it may be said that the early settlers were Americans—a large number of them coming from older portions of Ohio, while others migrated here from the more populous and less advantageous localities in states farther east. New York and Pennsylvania furnished a larger number of the latter class; but no matter where they came from, mutual desires and interests made them all akin, and by a silent process of "benevolent assimilation" they were converted into a Williams county family. Among them there existed very little distinction in worldly circumstances and modes of life—the disparities in condition that we now observe having been developed gradually with the country and emphasized by the frowns and smiles of that giddy dame—Fortune. It was neither the indolent nor the opulent, as a general fact, who sought homes in this region; for none but industrious men of moderate means would care to endure the preliminary privations and encounter the hazards that they knew would attend them while building homes in the almost unbroken wilderness. They came to better their condition in life; to become land-owners instead of tenants; to rid themselves of a species of land-lordism which prevailed in the Eastern states, and to emancipate themselves from a condition of semi-vassalage which threatened a doom of servitude for themselves and children.

At the time of its organization, 1824, it is reasonable to suppose that there were no white settlers within the present limits of Williams county. In 1830 the Federal census showed a population of 1,039, and in 1840, 4,464. These figures, of course, relate to the inhabitants of the county before the spoliation of its territory by the erection of Defiance and Fulton, and it is only fair to state that in 1830 the population of the territory now embraced in its limits was decidedly meager. But by 1840 there were settlers in every part of the county in sufficient numbers to perfect organizations and establish township governments; and the rumblings of discontent, occasioned by the court house being so far away, grew louder and louder as the population increased in the northern part of the county.

The removal of the sea of justice, however, was accomplished only after a spirited contest and in the face of a bitter opposition on the part of the citizens of Defiance and those who sympathized with them. At that time the town of Bryan only existed in the imagination of sundry individuals and consequently was not a tangible entity in the struggle. The site which it now occupies was then covered with as grand a timber growth as one would care to look upon, and having no existence, not even in name, there were no loyal partisans to champion its cause during the heat of the bitter contention. But a mysterrious power had grown up at points quite distant from the Maumee river; and the "first settlements" on her banks being overshadowed, they could no longer rule by superior numerical strength. In response to a monster petition from the outlying sections of the county, the General Assembly of Ohio, which convened on the first Monday of December, 1839, appointed three commissioners by a joint resolution to review and permanently locate the seat of justice of Williams county. These commissioners were Joseph Burns of Coshocton, James Culbertson of Perry, and Joseph McCutcheon of Crawford county. They entered upon their duties in convenient season and proceeded to examine carefully and impartially the claims of the different sites offered, before coming to a final decision. Williams Center and Pulaski—at that time towns of some importance—were both strong competitors for the county seat, but the fight was the thickest in and around Defiance, where the people felt that the loss of the court house would be irreparable to them.

As silent mementos of this "county-seat fight," there now repose among the archives of the county, documents—yellow with age—that tell the story of the frantic efforts made by Defiance citizens to retain the cherished seat of justice. A subscription paper was circulated, headed by H. G. Phillips and liberally signed by the leading men of the town, donating to the county treasury the sum of $2,250, upon condition that the commissioners appointed by the Legislature would report in favor of the county seat continuing at Defiance. They supplemented this money talk with oratorical appeals and what they considered cold logic, all of which is interesting now in a historical sense but seemed to lack efficacy then. On May 25, 1840, a written address was delivered to "Messrs. McCutcheon, Culbertson and Burns, Commissioners," etc., and signed "People of Defiance," in which it was stated that the removal of the seat of justice from that place "would work a species of the greatest injustice, not only to the original proprietors, but to other citizens who have purchased property in Defiance under the full assurance that the seat of justice was permanently established here." They then took up the legal phase of the matter and proved (to their own satisfaction at least) that when the seat of justice was established there it was to be permanent, everlasting and unchangeable; also showing that purchasers of property there had invested their money with such understanding.

Considering the possibility of removal, the address becomes pathetic. Listen: "And what, pray, is to be the consequence? Who are to be the sufferers? Who are thus to be turned out of house and home, or what is almost as bad, forced into protracted and expensive lawsuits to obtain their rights? Why, those who have had the folly to rely implicitly upon the plighted honor and faith of the State; those who relied upon the secure protection of that constitution which declares that the legislature shall hold contracts inviolable, and shall pass no law impairing their obligation. Those who, in an early day, penetrated the thick gloom of an almost interminable wilderness, and suffered the privations incident to the first settlement of a new country, that they might select for themselves and their children a situation possessing those advantages which are ever esteemed as important."

The reader may think that there is something strangely familiar in the line of argument used, but we assure him that, "to the best of our knowledge and belief," no extract from the document quoted has ever appeared upon a printed page before. Doubtless it recalls to his mind another similar "unpleasantness" of a later date, which will be spoken of hereafter, the corpse of which should be buried beneath the green sward of friendship and no grinning skeleton be allowed to stand between those who are working for the upbuilding of Williams county and her varied interests. The address continues in its familiar strain: "Admitting, as we most readily do, that Defiance is further from the geographical center of the county than could be wished, yet ought those who have chosen to locate themselves at a considerable distance from this point complain? Is any injustice done them? When Defiance was made the permanent seat of justice, those portions of the county which now claim it as a right were an unbroken forest. If they labor under inconveniences, they have no one but themselves to blame. They have chosen their present locations with their eyes open. Certainly they have no right to take from us advantages which we purchased, at a pretty dear rate, to increase their own wealth or add to their convenience."

The address stated further that ultimately there would be a new county created out of the northern territory, and called attention to the probability of Defiance becoming "one of the grand emporiums of trade." But the commissioners, after viewing the several sites, unanimously agreed that a removal of the seat of justice from the town of Defiance was essentially necessary; and therefore selected "the center of the southwest quarter of section 17, township 6 north, range 3 east, being in the township of Pulaski in said county, owned jointly by the American Land Company and John A. Bryan, on the most suitable and eligible ground in said tract of ground, to be selected by the commissioners of said county, as the most suitable place for the permanent location of said seat of justice for said county." A proviso was added that the American Land Company and John A. Bryan should perform the stipulation contained in a bond executed by John A. Bryan and Charles Butler, with Alfred P. Edgerton and William Trevitt as security. The conditions of this agreement were that two acres of land in the center of the town plat for a public square and two town lots to be selected by the county commissioners, were to be ceded to the county. Also Bryan, etc., were to erect temporary buildings for the use of courts and officials until the erection of permanent ones; and within four years from that date (July, 1840) they were to erect "neat and appropriate public buildings to cost or to be fairly valued at an expense to the amount of $8,500 or more."

The site of the new seat of justice having been chosen, Miller Arrowsmith, county surveyor, with his assistants repaired to the place selected and proceeded to survey and "lay out" the new town. As may be imagined, no hostelry was then in existence to welcome the visitors and care for their inner wants, but this condition of affairs being anticipated they brought with them an ample supply of tents and provisions to house and sustain them while engaged in the work. The survey was completed on July 14, 1840, and Mr. Arrowsmith, in honor of the man who donated the public square and at that time owned the surrounding land, named the embryo county seat Bryan. September 24, 1840, the plat was recorded in the county recorder's office, and the change of location for the seat of justice now being a certainty, steps were soon taken towards the removal of the official family from Defiance. Upon the last day of the December session of the county commissioners, December 10, 1840, the board considered "that the interest of the county requires the immediate erection of a county jail at the town of Bryan, the recently located seat of justice for Williams county," and ordered that the necessary steps be taken to advertise for bids for the erection of the same. The commissioners met again on January 12, 1841, and assigned the building of the jail to John McDowell of Center township.

The board held its last session at Defiance on February 25, 1841, and the record of the proceedings, which we give entire, tells the story of the last days of that municipality as the seat of justice of Williams county: "The Commissioners order that all the records and Journals belonging to the County of Williams, with the statutes, desks, stoves, stationery, and all the furniture belonging to the offices of the several officers of the county, and papers relating to the business of the county which should be left on file or otherwise, with all the movable property, be removed to the town of Bryan, the county site of Williams; and that the several county officers are requested forthwith to pack into good boxes the Records, Journals, statutes, stationery, and all things belonging to the county in the several offices, so that they may safely be conveyed to the town of Bryan, and without delay forward the same to Bryan; and that the several officers are requested to repair to the town of Bryan, at which place offices are prepared and convenient. The Commissioners order that one stove be left in the jail for the benefit of prisoners. The board orders that the Auditor deliver copies of the above order to the clerk of the court of common pleas, sheriff, treasurer, recorder, and all the county officers interested in the same."

The court of common pleas convened at Defiance on January 19, 1841, in special session, for the purpose of granting administrations; but three months later, April 19, the regular spring term was held at Bryan, and the removal of the machinery of county government was complete. This was followed a few years later by the erection of the counties of Defiance and Fulton, and the consequent reduction of Williams county to its present boundary lines.

CHAPTER IV

THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE

THE history of the trouble which arose over the matter of establishing a permanent boundary line between the present states of Ohio and Michigan should be of special interest to the people of Williams county, because of the fact that upon the decision and adjustment of the difficulty depended the question, whether the territory now embraced in the townships of Northwest, Bridgewater, Madison and Millcreek should be a part and parcel of the Buckeye State, or the inhabitants thereof should be numbered among the Wolverines. At one time the trouble threatened to assume the magnitude of civil war between the sovereign State of Ohio and the Territory of Michigan, supported, as the latter would unquestionably have been, by the military arm of the United States. The interest manifested was not confined to this locality, by any means, for leading members of Congress—notably John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts—took a hand in the fray, and it formed a subject for heated debate between giants of the political arena. Years have passed since the amicable settlement of this dispute, but time should not efface the record of historical events. Reasoning thus, and believing (with no desire to be invidious) that many people are not familiar with the history of the difficulty, the writer has consulted various authorities and decided to devote a chapter in this work to what is sometimes called "The Ohio and Michigan War."

The question of boundary between Ohio and Michigan antedated the admission of the former into the Union, and had its birth in the Congress that framed and adopted the "Ordinance of 1787,"—an instrument providing for the civil government of the Northwest Territory, then lately ceded to the United States. And it would be within the bounds of truth to say that this controversy, which for a time seriously threatened the peace of the country, was conceived through a blunder committed by a well-meaning though misguided Herodotus, prior to the action of the Confederate Congress. By the "Ordinance of 1787," Congress divided the Northwest Territory into three parts; the western to include all the present states of Illinois, Wisconsin and a portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; the middle to include the present State of Indiana, and north to the British line; the eastern to include the territory bounded by Indiana, Canada, Pennsylvania, and the Ohio river; "Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three [prospective] States shall be subject so far to be altered, that if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan."

The latest map in use at that time, which purported to give a representation of this portion of the earth's surface, was one published by Mitchell & Bradley in 1780, and, being decidedly inaccurate, it showed the southern extremity of the lake to be thirty miles north of where it really is. Congress, however, with only that map as a guide, thought that the "east and west line" would intersect the Detroit river, and hence really intended that the future State of Ohio should extend a considerable distance further north than it does. In fact it was plainly the purpose of the framers of the "Ordinance" that the northern boundary of the State should be near the forty-second parallel of north latitude. Judge Burnet, in his "Notes on the Northwestern Territory," thus explains the origin of the difficulty:

"The question of boundary, though not expressly referred to the Convention, was one of greater importance than would appear at first view. It is generally known to those who have consulted the maps of the western country extant at the time the Ordinance of 1787 was passed, that Lake Michigan was represented as being very far north of the position which it has since been ascertained to occupy. On a map in the Department of State, which was before the Committee of Congress who framed the Ordinance for the Government of the Territory, the southern boundary of that lake was laid down as being near the forty-second degree of north latitude; and there was a pencil line passing through the southern bend of the lake to the Canada line, which intersected the strait between the river Raisin and the town of Detroit. That line was manifestly intended by the committee and by Congress to be the northern boundary of this State; and, on the principles on which courts of chancery construe contracts, accompanied with plats, that map, and the line marked on it, should have been taken as conclusive evidence of the boundary, without reference to the actual position of the southern extreme of the lake."

When the act was passed, enabling Ohio to take the necessary steps toward statehood, Congress, under the same misapprehension, bounded the future state on the north "by an east and west line drawn through the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, running east until it shall intersect Lake Erie on the Territorial (British) line, and thence on the same through to the Pennsylvania line." Again it is clearly proven that Congress intended the boundary line to be further north; for the Fulton line, so called (the boundary claimed by Michigan), if extended east would not intersect the British line at any point whatever. When the convention that framed the State Constitution was in session, in 1802, it was still the prevailing understanding that the old maps were correct; and that the line, as defined in the Ordinance and enabling act, would terminate at some point on the Detroit river, far above the Maumee bay. But, while that subject was under discussion, a strolling hunter, who had for many years plied his vocation in the vicinity of Lake Michigan and was well acquainted with its position, happened to be in Chillicothe, and, in conversation with some of the members, mentioned to them that the lake extended much farther south than was generally supposed; and that a map which he had seen placed its southern bend many miles north of its true position. His statement produced some apprehension and excitement on the subject, and induced the convention to change the line prescribed in the act of Congress so far as to provide that, "if the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Mchigan should extend so far south that a line drawn due east from it should not intersect Lake Erie, or if it should intersect the said Lake Erie east of the mouth of the Miami river of the Lake [Maumee], then and in that case, with the assent of the Congress of the United States, the northern boundary of this State shall be established by, and extended to, a direct line running from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of the Miami [Maumee] bay," etc. The object of this proviso was to save to the State of Ohio the valuable ports and harbors on the Maumee river and bay, as was clearly intended by Congress, and which were the prizes contended for in the threatened resort to arms. Congress accepted this constitution, but, in 1805, Michigan territory was created with the southern boundary as originally specified—the old erroneous map being used as a guide—and without any reference to the Ohio amendment.

Upon this technicality arose the boundary difficulties, and the location of the line was considered very uncertain, even by the Ohio Legislature; for at different sessions, in 1807, 1809, and 1811, resolutions were passed, requesting that commissioners be appointed to establish definite boundaries on the north and west. Michigan claimed jurisdiction over the disputed land from the date of her organization as a territory, and by assuming authority in the Maumee country her officials soon excited jealousy and resentment upon the part of the settlers in the disputed strip who professed allegiance to Ohio. Upon January 23, 1812, Amos Spafford, Collector of the Port at Miami Rapids, addressed a letter to Governor Meigs, in which he stated it "to be the general wish of the people in this settlement (which consists of about fifty families) to have the laws of the State of Ohio extended over them." He informed the Governor that the people, with few exceptions, considered themselves clearly within the limits of Ohio—the exceptions being those who held office under the Governor of Michigan, whose orders they were endeavoring to enforce. Collector Spafford stated that if no adjustment should be made, he feared the contention would ere long become serious. This letter of Mr. Spafford, it will be observed, was written during the period when the population of the western frontiers were excited by the unfriendly relations existing between England and the United States; and which resulted in a declaration of war made by the latter in June of the same year. The great issue of a foreign war, threatening a common danger, united all the people of the frontier, including those of the disputed jurisdiction, in support of the general welfare, and national patriotism subdued for a time the promptings of local and selfish interests.

Yet congress, heeding the petitions of Ohio's legislative assembly, and recognizing the seriousness of the boundary dispute and the importance of its early settlement, on May 20, 1812, passed an act authorizing and instructing the Surveyor General of the United States, under the direction of the President, and as soon as the consent of the Indians could be obtained, "to cause to be surveyed, marked and designated, so much of the western and northern boundaries of the State of Ohio, which have not already been ascertained, as divides said State from the territories of Indiana and Michigan, agreeably to the boundaries as established by the [enabling] act" of 1802. As will be observed, the framers of this act had in mind the line as originally stipulated (due east from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan); but they evidently recognized the mistake made in such designation, for they instructed the Surveyor General "to cause to be made a plat or plan of so much of the boundary line as runs from the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan to Lake Erie, particularly noting the place where said line intersects the margin of said lake, and to return the same when made to Congress." But, as before stated, the war of 1812 came on, and this, with ensuing difficulties, served to defer the making of the survey as directed.

The matter remained in *statu quo* for several years, until 1817, when, peaceful treaties having been made with the Indians, Edward Tiffin, Surveyor General of the United States, in pursuance of the instructions contained in the Act of Congress mentioned above, employed William Harris, a skillful surveyor, to run a portion of the western and all of the northern boundary line. Indiana had been erected into a state in 1816, and its northern boundary, as defined by act of Congress, included "a strip of land, ten miles wide, off the southern portion of Michigan Territory." This was another recognition of the old line which had been established through a mistaken idea of the geography of the country; but by extending Indiana ten miles further north, Congress showed its disregard for the instructions given in the Ordinance of 1787, and gave to the Ohio claimants a precedent decidedly in their favor. Harris found that a due east line from the head of Lake Michigan would intersect Lake Erie seven miles south of the most northerly cape of Maumee bay, his survey in this matter agreeing perfectly with that afterwards made by Fulton. He accordingly, in conformity to the constitution of Ohio, ran another line from the lower extremity of Lake Michigan to the northerly cape of Maumee bay. This line established the northwest corner of Ohio at a point on the Indiana line, five miles, 24 chains and 64 links north of where the due east and west line located the same. Or, in other words, the difference in the lines at this place was the distance between the northwest corner and southwest corner of Northwest township in Williams county.

General Lewis Cass was at that time (1817) governor of the Territory of Michigan, and, after investigating the boundary question, claimed the line to be the one established by the Ordinance of 1787 and accordingly claimed the disputed territory. A lengthy correspondence followed between Governor Cass and the Surveyor General, and the matter was taken up by the Ohio legislature in January, 1818, strong resolutions being passed, affirming the Harris line as the true one and holding that Congress so decided in approving the organization of the State. Governor Cass obtained an order through William H. Crawford, then Secretary of the Treasury, to run the due east and west line, and John A. Fulton was employed to make the survey. The result of course agreed exactly with the first line run by Mr. Harris, and it became known from that time as the "Fulton line"—said line being the present boundary between the northern and middle tiers of townships in Williams county, extending thence east through Fulton, and leaving a good portion of the city of Toledo in the present state of Michigan. The United States surveys, for subdividing the lands purchased from the Indians into townships and sections were completed a few years thereafter, and as tney were closed in Ohio and later in Michigan upon the Fulton line, it seemed that the government had decided favorably to that boundary.

Ohio, however, claimed to the Harris line and proceeded, wherever the population was sufficient, to organize townships, etc., accordingly. Wordy discussions followed and civil officers were appointed by each claimant. Nothing serious occurred for several years, but, "a disputed jurisdiction," as Lewis Cass wrote to Edward Tiffin, "is one of the greatest evils that can happen to a country." Claims which involve vast sums of money fail to provoke strifes as acrimonious as those relating to contested land boundaries. The anxiety of the inhabitants of the infant settlements, occupying the disputed tract, can be easily imagined, and almost any decision would have been welcomed by them if it ended the strife and established an undisputed jurisdiction. Dr. Horatio Conant, in December, 1823, wrote a letter from Fort Meigs to Hon. Ethan A. Brown, then a United States Senator from Ohio, appealing for some solution of the difficulty, but breathing loyalty to Ohio and the Harris line.

Dr. Conant was one of the pioneer physicians in the Maumee Valley. He was born at Mansfield, Connecticut, November 25, 1785, and was educated at Middlebury college in that State. He studied medicine in the state of New York, and, in 1816, came to Ohio, locating at Fort Meigs, where he followed the mercantile business for one year. He then began the practice of his profession and made it his chief business during life, although he held several official positions, among which was judge of the court of Common Pleas. His professional visits extended up the Maumee river to Defiance and embraced all the country below. In one instance, in making a horseback trip to Defiance, he swam no less than eight streams and was compelled to purchase a canoe and float back home. Dr. Conant was among the most public-spirited citizens who aided in planting white settlements and civilization in this then wilderness country and earnestly endeavored to remove all obstacles to such progress. In the boundary dispute he displayed the same earnestness and good citizenship that characterized his long and useful life.

During John Quincy Adams' administration arose the question of internal improvements all over the country, and the project of uniting the waters of Lake Erie and the Wabash river by a canal was considered. As is well known, General Andrew Jackson, who succeeded Adams as president, did not favor internal improvements by the aid of the general government; but the state of Indiana obtained an appropriation by Congress of each alternate section of land, five miles wide, on each side of the proposed canal, and extending its entire length, including the portion through Ohio. Indiana conveyed to Ohio the portion within the latter state upon the conditions of the original grant. Thus Ohio became interested, and in March, 1834, the legislature authorized Governor Lucas to appoint three commissioners to locate the canal line through the State. During the same year a survey of the proposed canal was made and it was found necessary to locate the eastern terminus at a point on the Maumee river, north of the Fulton line, in order to reach navigable water. This re-opened the mooted boundary question and brought the partisans of the rival claimants to a frenzied state of excitement. On February 12, 1835, the Territory of Michigan passed a law inflicting heavy penalties upon any person attempting jurisdiction over any part of the territory without authority from the United States or the Territory of Michigan. In accordance with a further provision of this act, Stevens T. Mason, the youthful and impulsive acting governor of Michigan, sent a message to Governor Lucas of Ohio, who in turn submitted it to the legislature, then in session. The legislature replied by passing an act on February 23, 1835, affirming the jurisdiction of Wood, Henry and Williams county to the Harris line; and it gave notice to congress that, "it ill becomes a million of freemen to humbly petition, year after year, for what justly belongs to them and is completely within their control."

The fight was now on in earnest. The commissioners of Williams county met on March 30, 1835, and in accordance with the legislative enactment extended the county jurisdiction to the Harris line, notifying all citizens of such extension. Wood and Henry counties likewise extended. A further provision of the act of the Legislature (passed February 23, 1835) provided for the appointment of three commissioners to run and re-mark the Harris line. Uri Seely of Geauga, Jonathan Taylor of Licking, and John Patterson of Adams, were appointed such commissioners, and the first of April was named as the time to commence the survey. Governor Mason of Michigan, keenly watching the Buckeye movements, ordered Gen. Joseph W. Brown, who commanded a division of the territorial militia, to be prepared to meet the impending crisis and to "use every exertion to obtain the earliest information of the military movements of our adversary." On March 31, Governor Lucas, accompanied by his staff and the boundary commissioners, arrived at Perrysburg on their way to run and re-mark the Harris line in compliance with the act "in such case made and provided." General John Bell, in command of the Seventeenth division of the Ohio Militia, arrived about the same time with his staff and mustered into service a volunteer force of about six hundred men, fully armed and equipped. The force went into camp at old Fort Miami and awaited the orders of the chief executive. Governor Mason, with General Brown, arrived at Toledo with a force under the immediate command of the latter, variously estimated at from 800 to 1,200 men, and went into camp, ready to resist any advance of the Ohio authorities upon the disputed territory to run the boundary line or any other movement inconsistent with Michigan's claim of jurisdiction over it. As a distinguished lawyer has put it, "the two governors, having made up an issue by legislative enactments, found themselves confronted by a military force that had been called out to enforce their respective legislative pleadings. Governor Mason, representing the tenant in possession, was content to rest at his case. Governor Lucas, representing the plaintiff, had to open the trial."

The whole country in the meantime became wild with excitement, and Governor Lucas had determined to order General Bell with his force to Toledo as soon as he could make the necessary preparations, and risk the consequences. No doubt such action on his part would have resulted in a serious military engagement and possibly menaced the peace of the entire country; but before he had got his preparations made, two eminent citizens—Hon. Richard Rush of Philadelphia, and Col. Benjamin C. Howard of Baltimore, arrived from Washington as commissioners from the President of the United States, to use their personal influence to stop all war-like demonstrations. Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, of Ohio, accompanied the commissioners as a voluntary peace-maker. The commissioners and Mr. Whittlesey had several conferences with both governors, and finally, on April 7, submitted the following propositions for their assent:

"1. That the Harris line should be run and re-marked pursuant to the act of the last session of the Legislature of Ohio, without interruption.

"2. The civil elections under the laws of Ohio having taken place throughout the disputed territory, that the people residing upon it should be left to their own government, obeying the one jurisdiction or the other, as they may prefer, without molestation from the authorities of Ohio or Michigan until the close of the next session of Congress."

Governor Lucas, on the urgent request of the commissioners and Mr. Whittlesey, agreed, reluctantly, to accept the proposition as a peaceable settlement until after "the close of the next session of Congress." Governor Mason refused to acquiesce in the propositions. Notwithstanding this refusal on the part of the Michigan hotspur, Governor Lucas assented to the agreement, regarding the governor of a territory as a subaltern, subject to the control of the President. He looked upon the agreement as one made with the President, through Messrs. Rush and Howard as his representatives, and hence disbanded the military force he had collected. Governor Mason partially did likewise, but still continued to make preparations for any emergency that might arise and stationed a military force at Adrian under the command of General Brown to keep a close watch upon events.

In 1832, new observations of latitude were made, under an act of Congress, by Captain Talbott, assisted by Lieut. Robert E. Lee, then a recent graduate from West Point but afterwards the famous military chieftain of the Confederate forces and the idol of all loyal Southerners. These observations showed that the originally proposed line, if extended due east from the southern point of Lake Michigan, would not touch the international boundary in the middle of Lake Erie, but would pass several miles south of it, and coming to land again would throw into the territory of Michigan a considerable part of Northeastern Ohio. This absurdity was so apparent that it was confidently expected that the alternative line, which was provided for in the Ohio constitution, would be confirmed—especially so, when the fact was considered that Congress, by admitting Ohio to statehood, had constructively approved it. The matter was submitted to Benjamin F. Butler, at that time Attorney General of the United States, but he, with that tenacity which is a characteristic of lawyers in adhering to the letter of the law, decided that until Congress acted otherwise Michigan had the right of dominion over the disputed strip. He softened a little, however, by saying that no harm could come from the re-survey of the Harris line, as proposed by the Ohio authorities. Accordingly, Governor Lucas thought he could run and re-mark the line without serious molestation and directed the commissioners to proceed with the work. Engineer S. Dodge, who was engaged in the construction of the Ohio canal, was employed as surveyor and together with the commissioners and a considerable party, came up the Maumee river to Defiance and then started across the country to the Northwest corner of the state to commence the survey. They arrived at the Fulton line on April 19, but as the "border" was infested with Michigan scouts the party decided not to advance without further advice from Governor Lucas. The Governor instructed them to run the line at all hazards, and they proceeded to what is now the extreme corner of Northwest township, Williams county, where they found the corner of the state as described in the field notes of Surveyor Harris. Thence the commissioners and party proceeded eastwardly along the line, finding it with little or no difficulty and re-marking it as directed, until they reached a point near the present town of Lyons, in Fulton county, on April 25. There they left the line and retired about a mile to the south, where they expected to spend the following day, Sunday. At about high noon of the next day, however, they were attacked by a mounted force under General Brown, and in the melee that followed nine of the Ohio party were captured and escorted to Tecumseh, Michigan. The remainder of the force succeeded in reaching Perrysburg, and the project of re-surveying the line was indefinitely postponed.

In addition to this outrage upon the official surveying party there were numerous flagrant assaults upon individuals—some of the events being ludicrous, but all of them doubtless having a serious aspect to the victims. Among the latter was Major Stickney, one of the most interesting and famous characters who were figuring on the Maumee in those early days. It will add a humorous interest to the dry details of this boundary dispute if we digress here and devote a little space to this eccentric individual, the facts being gleaned from reminiscences penned by Thomas W. Powell. Major Stickney had been appointed by President Jefferson as Indian Agent, and as such had long resided in the Western country—first at Upper Sandusky and then at Fort Wayne. He was a man of some intelligence, and assumed to be a scholar and philosopher. His wife was a highly respectable lady—in every way amiable, and a daughter of General Stark of Revolutionary fame. But his wife's accomplishments did not prevent Major Stickney from resorting to all kinds of eccentricities. A part of this was to be as much as possible like nobody else. This he carried out in the naming of his children—not after any names found in either Christian or profane history; but the boys were to represent the numerals and the girls the states—as far as their numbers would go. The boys, therefore, were named One, and Two, etc.; and though he condescended to name his eldest daughter, from respect to Mrs. Stickney, Mary, the rest of his daughters were named after the states, Indiana, Michigan, etc. This eccentricity produced some of the most ridiculous anecdotes, among which is the following: Soon after the family moved to the Maumee Valley, and while living in a house erected near the landing at the mouth of Swan Creek, Mrs. Stickney, one morning, came to the piazza in front of the house, where a vessel laid at anchor, and calling to her sons, said, "Two, call One to breakfast." A sailor aboard the vessel looked up and said: "Is this Maumee? It is a terrible hard country, if it takes two to call one to breakfast."

In the spring of 1821, Major Stickney was a ruling spirit in what was already a thriving settlement in the neighborhood of Swan Creek. Up to this time the little colony had been without a question within the jurisdiction of Ohio. Writs had been issued from Maumee in Wood county, to the settlers, as witnesses, jurors and suitors, and they, until then, had answered as such without a question as to jurisdiction. But other views had entered into Major Stickney's policy and philosophy. He called a public meeting of the citizens, and to them when thus assembled he represented that the citizens of the incipient city had very seriously mistaken their interest as to the question—where the true northern line of the State of Ohio was. He did not care as to what the constitution of the State of Ohio said on the subject—the true line was the one run due east from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, which run considerably south of the settlement and would leave them in the Territory of Michigan, instead of the State of Ohio, and therefore they were Wolverines instead of Buckeyes. He averred that it was greatly to their interest to be so; that while they were citizens of the Territory they would be cherished and protected under the auspices and guardianship of the United States, while in Ohio they could not expect anything except to be taxed. He said he was well acquainted with General Cass, the Governor of Michigan at that time, and would go to him and get a commission as justice of the peace for Michigan in the settlement, in case the citizens there would sustain him. The motion carried—the secession was complete. Major Stickney procured his commission and proceeded to exercise the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace of Michigan over the seceded territory. Soon after these things had matured, Gen. J. E. Hunt of Maumee, had some official business to transact in that vicinity as an officer of Wood county. The citizens threw every obstacle in his way to prevent the discharge of his duties and to convince him that they had really seceded. General Hunt returned with just complaint of the conduct of the citizens there. A meeting of the commissioners of the county was called and the question was, what shall be done with the seceding rebels—shall they be prosecuted and hung? Perhaps so, if justice were done them. But mild and discreet measures and counsels were adopted. It was considered that Congress and the State of Ohio would in due time settle the question, and in the meantime it was neither discreet nor prudent to get up a war which could be avoided. This policy prevailed and Major Stickney and his followers were let "alone in their glory."

But about this time the canal question became an absorbing theme to the people of the Maumee Valley. When fully acquainted with the project, Major Stickney called another meeting of the citizens of Swan Creek, and to them he now represented that they had committed a great error in seceding from Ohio and going over to Michigan; that while they belonged to Michigan they could not expect that the State of Ohio would construct the canal to Swan Creek; they must go back to Ohio; they must secede from Michigan and go back to Ohio again; they must undo their former secession and rebellion or they could not expect to secure the canal. Thereupon all sorts of resolutions were adopted, to the effect that they were and of right ought to be a part and parcel of the State of Ohio; that Ohio was a great and glorious State, and that they would maintain their position, if necessary, at the point of the bayonet. These measures succeeded in arousing Michigan to a demonstration of war. Militia soldiers were sent from Detroit by land and water to Swan Creek, to whip the rebels into subjection to their legitimate authority. They came in martial array and took possession of the territory where the proud city of Toledo now stands, making the citizens succumb to the power and jurisdiction of Michigan. They returned to Detroit in the most jubilant triumph, drinking all sorts of toasts to the glory of Michigan and to the anathematization of Major Stickney in Ohio, one of which was, "Here is to Major Stickney's potatoes and onions—we draft their tops and their bottoms volunteer!" This, however, was all to the wishes of the sycophantical Major, and in accordance with his policy he went immediately to Columbus and represented to the Governor and people of Ohio the intolerable barbarity of the Wolverines—how they had desecrated the just authority of Ohio and trampled under foot the loyal citizens of the State. Among the individuals arrested by the Michigan authorities during the troublous times of 1835, was Major Stickney, who was taken while on a visit to friends in Monroe, Michigan. He was confined in jail at the latter place for some time, as he described it, "peeping through the grates of a loathsome prison for the monstrous crime of having acted as the judge of an election within the State of Ohio." He was finally released, however, but it is doubtful if ever, in either ancient or modern history, there has been an instance of secession and rebellion so successful, or a hero of one so clearly entitled to the distinction as Major Stickney.

Other citizens of the disputed strip, who claimed allegiance to Ohio, were arrested and harshly treated, among whom being Messrs. N. Goodsell and George McKay of Toledo, and feeling was aroused to a high pitch. The commissioners appointed to re-mark the Harris line reported the attack upon them to Governor Lucas, and he in turn reported the facts to President Jackson. The President sent a copy of the report to Governor Mason and directed him to send a statement "by the officers engaged in the transaction complained of." William McNair, under-sheriff of Lenawee county and the officer who made the arrests, replied, denying that the commissioners' posse was fired upon. Great excitement prevailed throughout Ohio. The press spread the news with such comments as corresponded with their views. Most of the papers advocated the cause of the Governor, and severely condemned the conduct of Michigan; but some few of the Whig papers, or those anti-Democratic in politics, took an opposite view and severely berated the conduct of Governor Lucas and those who sided with him. They treated the proceedings on the part of the authorities of Ohio as ridiculous and calculated to bring the State into disgrace. But the number of these papers that spoke freely against the course pursued by the State were very few. Governor Lucas, finding it impracticable to run the line or enforce jurisdiction over the disputed territory, called an extra session of the legislature to meet on the 8th day of June. That body passed an act "to prevent the forcible abduction of the citizens of Ohio." The act was intended of course to prevent if possible a repetition of offenses heretofore mentioned— and also had reference to counteracting the previous acts of the legislative council of Michigan—and made such offenses punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than three nor more than seven years. An act was also passed at this special session creating the county of Lucas out of the north part of Wood and Henry counties. This new county extended from the east line of Williams to Lake Erie, the greater part of the new division lying between the rival boundary lines. An act was also passed levying appropriations to carry into effect all laws in regard to the northern boundary. Three hundred thousand dollars were appropriated out of the treasury and the Governor was authorized to borrow three hundred thousand more on the credit of the state. The determination to run and re-mark the Harris line was still in evidence, and a resolution was adopted inviting the President to appoint a commissioner to go with the Ohioans when they again attempted to make the survey.

The issue was now changed; and to quote again from a legal chronicler of the events, "the United States now became defendant as claimant of title in fee." The determined attitude of Michigan to prevent Ohio from exercising any authority over the disputed strip aroused a feeling of State pride that could not well brook the idea that the thinly populated Territory of Michigan, with her stripling Governor, should successfully defy Governor Lucas and a State of a "million" inhabitants. Governor Lucas investigated the military strength of the State and found that at least twelve thousand men were ready to respond to a hurry-up call. The authorities of Michigan became exasperated. They dared the Ohio "million" to enter the disputed ground and "welcomed them to hospitable graves." Prosecutions for the crime of holding office under the laws of Ohio were conducted with greater vigor than ever, and the people of Monroe county, Michigan, were busy in acting as a sheriff's posse to make arrests of the recalcitrant Buckeyes. The partisans of Ohio being thus continually harrassed by the authorities of Michigan and attempting frequently to retaliate in kind, the disputed strip was not an attractive point for the home-seeker during the greater part of the summer of 1835.

But such a state of affairs could not permanently exist and was certain ere long to reach its culmination. The frequent arrests and imprisonments of reputable men tended to keep the matter at a fever heat, and in a few instances homicide was narrowly averted on the part of the infuriated citizens. On July 15, 1835, an attempt was made to arrest Two Stickney, second son of the doughty Major, and to re-arrest George McKay. The accused were found at a tavern, "in the village of Toledo," by officers Lyman Hurd and Joseph Wood, of Monroe county, Michigan; but Stickney and McKay resisted the efforts to arrest them, and in the melee that followed, Officer Wood was severely wounded by a dirk knife in the hands of Stickney. This and other similar proceedings were reported by Governor Mason to President Jackson, who was becoming strongly impressed with the necessity of interposing some check to the evident tendency towards serious trouble.

Some time previous to this, Governor Lucas, perceiving considerable uneasiness at Washington for the peace of the country, had sent to the Federal City, Noah H. Swayne, William Allen and David T. Disney to confer with the President on the subject of the boundary difficulties. The result of this mission was the urgent appeal of the President for "the mutual suspension until after the next session of Congress," of all action that would by possibility produce collision, and the assurance that an earnest recommendation would be immediately sent to the acting Governor of Michigan and the other authorities of the Territory, whom he could rightfully advise in the performance of their duty, "that no obstruction shall be interposed to the re-marking of the Harris line; that all proceedings already begun under the act of February 12, 1835, shall be immediately discontinued; that no prosecution shall be commenced for any subsequent violations of that act, until after the next session of Congress, and that all questions about the disputed jurisdiction shall be carefully avoided, and if occurring inevitably, their discussion shall be postponed until the same period."

This arrangement was made with Messrs. Swayne, Allen and Disney, on July 3, 1835, and the provisions defined the base of operations for Ohio. The State now had the direct promise of the President that he would advise that "no obstruction shall be interposed to the re-marking of the Harris line," etc.; but the authorities of Michigan for a time entirely disregarded the arrangements, and the pugnacious Governor Mason seemed bent upon fighting it out regardless of Federal interference or Presidential advice. The act of the Ohio legislature, erecting the new county of Lucas, also provided "that the said county of Lucas, when organized, shall be attached to the second judicial circuit; and the court of common pleas in said county shall be holden on the first Monday of September next." Accordingly, preparations were made for the holding of court at Toledo upon the date mentioned, but such action by the Ohio authorities excited very intensely the belligerent proclivities of the youthful ex-officio Governor of Michigan. He levied a small army and, on Sunday, the day before that set for holding the court, he invaded the district and encamped with a force of twelve hundred men in the lower part of the town of Toledo. This ill-advised operation was attended by no particularly serious consequences: for the Michiganders found no one to oppose them, and of course they were barely fighting the wind. The court of Common Pleas met on Monday morning early, made a record of their session and adjourned without Governor Mason and his forces being aware of their meeting. In consequence, the court exercised its jurisdiction without being disturbed, and the gallant Governor Mason marched to Toledo with his twelve hundred men, flourishing his drums and trumpets, and then marched back again.

There might have been further trouble had not President Jackson, at about this time, removed the obstreperous Mason from his position as acting Governor of Michigan and placed the affairs of the Territory in the hands of one whose disposition was less fiery and whose acts were governed more by reason. John S. Horner was appointed to the position, on September 21, 1835, and immediately entered into an amicable correspondence with Governor Lucas, the effect of which was to allay all excitement and restore peaceful relations, leaving the final settlement of the question with Congress at its session the following winter. This, however, merely changed the scene of the conflict and the personnel of the combatants, for when the matter was taken up in Congress the advocates on each side displayed a feeling in the matter no less intense than that exhibited by the partisans on the Ohio frontier. John Quincy Adams championed the cause of Michigan, and declared in an impassioned address that never before in his life had he known "a controversy in which all the right was so clearly on one side and all the power so overwhelmingly on the other." He had able assistants in the debate, but Ohio also was represented by men who were abundantly equipped with ability to do battle for the other side of the contention. Thomas Ewing in the Senate and Samuel F. Vinton in the House were the Buckeye knights, and in the following June, 1836, Ohio won the day and the disputed strip—Congress holding that the State constitution, having been solemnly accepted, authorized Ohio to annex the territory in question. In the main, this action of Congress was more in the nature of a compromise than a clear-cut decision upon the merits of the controversy. Congress is not a court of equity, and the members thereof are sometimes actuated by motives other than a desire to give force and effect to the letter and spirit of existing law. What a chancery tribunal would have done, had a proper issue been joined and brought before it for adjustment, is of course problematical; but with the facts fully stated (as the writer has endeavored to give them in this chapter), and with the intent of the framers of the Ordinance of 1787, so apparent, it seems that exact justice would have placed the boundary line considerably further north than it is. But following the strict letter of the Ordinance and the ensuing acts of Congress, a judge of the law would doubtless have named the Fulton line as the southern boundary of Michigan. In fact the Supreme Court of Ohio, in the case of Daniels vs. Stevens, lessee, reported in the Nineteenth Ohio Reports, Chief Justice Hitchcock delivering the opinion, affirms that Michigan had jurisdiction to the Fulton line until the act of Congress was passed, in June, 1836, which established the Harris line as the true boundary. And the United States Circuit Court, in a case of considerable interest (Piatt vs. Oliver and others, reported in 2 McLean, 267), in which the question of State jurisdiction became important, decided the right of jurisdiction to be in Michigan until the boundary line was changed by Congress, in 1836. The latter case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and there the jurisdiction over the disputed territory was again treated as rightfully and clearly in Michigan.—3 Howard's R. 333.

But those were days of compromises in American politics, as is evidenced by the act of Congress admitting Missouri, the tariff law of 1833, etc., and in the settlement of this disputed boundary line, the handiwork of a skilled peace-maker is also apparent. Michigan had applied for admission to the sisterhood of states, and to secure such recognition could be easily induced to surrender her claims to a narrow strip of land, averaging about eight miles wide. As additional salve for her wounded pride, however, she was given as a part of her domain the large peninsula between Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior, now so well known for its rich deposits of copper and other minerals. If "the jingle of the guinea helps the hurt that honor feels," when speaking of men, the same is doubtless true of states, and Michigan was abundantly compensated in mineral wealth for whatever damage was done to her escutcheon. The chief value to Ohio of the territory contended for was the harbor at Toledo, formed by the mouth of the Maumee—essential, as her public men believed, to enable her to reap the benefit of the commerce made by the canals to Cincinnati and Indiana. Results have shown that they judged correctly, for Toledo has proved to be the true point for the meeting of the lake and canal commerce.

Thus the angry strife, resulting from a geographical error, was happily settled through the ascendency of conciliatory statesmanship; and the citizens of the two commonwealths, once on the verge of open warfare, became united in a common interest, and nothing but tranquil and fraternal relations have since prevailed between them.

CHAPTER V

FROM 1841 TO 1861

THE seat of justice having been removed from Defiance to Bryan, the first requisite in the embryo town was buildings in which to hold court and house the county officials. As a part of the inducement that caused the county seat to be located on its present site, Bryan and Trevitt agreed to build proper buildings for such use, temporarily, until more substantial structures could be erected. As may be inferred, these first county buildings were simple and in keeping with their surroundings. The courts were held in a small log house, erected late in the year 1840—Jacob Over and James McFadden dressing the logs and doing such other carpenter work as was needed on the primitive temple of justice. The building stood near the center of the space included in lots 94, 95, and 96, southeast corner of Main and Mulberry streets, where now stand the residences of John Niederaur, W. H. Lane and Dr. McTaggart. It was a two-story building, about twenty-five by forty feet in size, extending north and south. The entrance was at the south end and the judge's bench at the north, court being held on the ground floor, and the second story—according to the memory of the older citizens—not being prepared for any use. The courts were held there for about seven years, or, until the autumn of 1847, when the brick building on the public square was completed. Later the old log structure was taken down and erected into two buildings on the east side of town, by Messrs. Levi Cunningham and John Young. These buildings are yet standing—one of them, remodelled, being the residence of William G. Yates, and the other, now dilapidated, is the property of Arthur Willett—on the north side of East High street. The first county jail in Bryan was also an unpretentious affair, built of logs, two stories high, and stood on lot No. 137, west side of Lynn street, between Bryan and Mulberry streets, the lot now belonging to the Jacob Teems estate. It remained there until 1848, when it was removed, and, with new material added, rebuilt on the west half of lots 107 and 108, now occupied by the Long drug-store building. There it stood, as a place of incarceration for the evil-doers, until 1867, when the present brick jail was erected. The old building was then torn down and some of the logs were used in a sewer system of drainage, which was being constructed along the streets of Bryan.

The dates of the erection of the several township subdivisions have been given in a preceding chapter, and it will be remembered that there were, originally, twenty Congressional townships, which, when organized for civil purposes, were Defiance, Tiffin, Springfield, Brady, Millcreek, Madison, Jefferson, Pulaski, Washington, Delaware, Mark, Farmer, Center, Superior, Bridgewater, Northwest, Florence, St. Joseph, Milford and Hicksville. Some of these townships exceeded the established limits of the United States surveys (six miles square), owing to the clashing of the Harris and Fulton lines, and Williams county possessed an extent of territory far in excess of the four hundred square miles, which the constitution of 1802 had established as the minimum for a county organization. The chagrin felt by the citizens of Defiance over the removal of the county seat from that place prompted them to take advantage of this fact, and they early began a movement looking to the erection of a new county, with Defiance as the permanent location of a fixed and unmovable county-seat. In such efforts they were finally successful, and on March 4, 1845, the general assembly of Ohio passed an act, "to erect the county of Defiance." It took from Williams the territory which comprises the townships of Defiance, Tiffin, Washington, Delaware, Mark, Farmer, Milford and Hicksville—eight in number—and by invading the counties of Henry and Paulding, secured enough additional territory to give the new county its constitutional size and at the same time satisfy the cravings of Defiance citizens for a court house in their midst.

Williams county was thus reduced in size and limited to the remaining twelve townships. This division of the territory appeared at first to be disastrous to the county, for though its outline still continued symmetrical, yet a large portion of its most valuable taxable property was transferred to the newly erected county. And in addition to this a vexatious and acrimonious strife at once arose over the question of removing the seat of justice from Bryan to West Unity. The erection of Defiance county had placed the new county seat of Williams far from the geographical center and within three miles of the southern boundary line, causing the same objections to arise that had been used so effectively against Defiance, a few years before. The new court house at Bryan, although in course of construction, was not nearly completed, and the citizens of West Unity considered it an opportune time to agitate the question of removal. The claims of West Unity, when geography is considered, were not very logical, however, as her location was only five miles away from the eastern boundary line; but she had two miles the advantage of Bryan, and the conflict raged furiously, regardless of former friendships or family ties. The question was finally settled by the interference of a third party—the legislature of the State of Ohio. On February 28, 1850, the General Assembly passed an act "to create the county of Fulton," taking for such purpose a large tract off the west end of Lucas, a smaller one from Henry county, and three tiers of sections off the east side of Millcreek township and two from Brady in Williams county. This ended the vexed controversy between West Unity and

Bryan; for the former now had no advantage of the latter when the charge of being "a border town" was discussed, each being about equally distant from a line that bounded another jurisdiction. This act of the legislature also made the eastern boundary line of Williams county decidedly irregular, and reduced the superficial area to 420 square miles—a little more than is required by law, but near enough the minimum to make any further "pruning" improbable. In 1857 an effort was made to remove the county seat to the geographical center, near Montpelier—but the project failed.

The early efforts towards building the town of Bryan will be treated of in the chapter on Pulaski township, and of course repetition is unnecessary in this connection. Though a considerable settlement was made on the town site, during the few months following the decision to locate the seat of justice at that place, the town was not formally incorporated until June, 1849. The original plat of the town contained one hundred and eighty inlots, exclusive of the public square, each of which is four rods frontage and eight rods in depth, with alleys between abutting lots. This arrangement made the squares or blocks of three hundred and ninety-six feet frontage on the east and west sides and two hundred and eighty-four on the north and south; all being bounded by streets of proper width, Main and High being one hundred feet wide and the others sixty-six. It is easy to imagine that the course of these streets was marked by blazed trees, for the virgin forest was as yet undisturbed by the ax of civilization.

It is not possible to produce a complete and accurate list of names of the first settlers; but after it became generally known that the legislative commissioners had located the county seat of Williams in the midst of an unbroken section of Pulaski township forest, many people, some attracted with a possible thought of purchasing lots and opening up business, and others to gratify curiosity—made journeys to the place. Most of these returned home and circulated unfavorable reports about the future prospects of the incipient village. Among the few, however, who determined to brave such pioneer hardships and inconveniences as presented themselves was John Kaufman, who should be mentioned as having assisted in building the temporary log court house and in burning brick for the walls of the permanent one. Mr. Kaufman spent the remainder of his life in Bryan, and although fortune smiled not upon him in the way of abundant riches, yet he was entitled to the greater honor of being a worthy citizen. For many years prior to his death he was the efficient janitor of the court house.

Volney Crocker, who subsequently located on a farm in St. Joseph township, probably cut down the first tree. Mr. Crocker was a native of New York, where he was born February 8, 1818, the son of Samuel and Polly (Fordham) Crocker, who were also early residents of Williams county. The family went to live in Upper Canada in 1820, later moved to Lower Canada, and thence to Stark county, Ohio, where they lived until 1834. In the latter year they came to

Williams county and located on a piece of woodland near Williams Center. There they encountered all the hardships of pioneer life, living in their wagon until they could erect a cabin with puncheon floor and stick chimney. After reaching manhood, Volney Crocker followed scoring and hewing timber for a few years, and in the winter of 1840-41 erected the first house in Bryan, which he inhabited while "clearing off" the public square and several of the streets of the village. Soon after this he began farming in the woods, near by, and subsequently followed carriage-making in Bryan for several years. Later he removed to St. Joseph township and followed farming the remainder of his life. Mr. Crocker has the double honor of leveling the first "giant of the forest" and furnishing the first cabin in the newly-plätted town. This structure was on the shanty order, however, intended for but temporary use, and the first regular cabin was built by Daniel Wyatt, on lots No. 110 and 111, south side of the square on Butler street, where is now located the residence of George W. Hopkins.

William Yates was the first merchant to establish himself in business in Bryan, in the fall of 1841, and Thomas Shorthill opened the first tavern during the same year. His early competitors in the business were Thomas McCurdy and John McDowell, and later, Daniel Langel. The first marriage was that of Andrew J. Tressler and Miss Olivia Kent, as appears in another chapter. The postoffice was established February 22, 1841, and Thomas Shorthill, the village inn-keeper, was appointed postmaster and held the office a few years.

The board of county commissioners held its first session in Bryan —the new seat of justice—on March 1, 1841, and the record of business transacted affords ample evidence that northern townships had not only demanded, but had also shown the numerical strength to enforce the recognition of their necessities in the matter of roads, bridges, etc. The second act of the board at this March meeting was to "declare a public highway," commencing at the northwest corner of section seventeen, in Northwest township, at the Indiana line, and thence running due east on section lines to the quarter post on the north side of section thirteen, thence southeastwardly to the quarter post on the south side of section seventeen in Bridgewater township, and thence east on section lines to the east line of the county. This road, throughout the greater part of its original course is still in use, but it is perhaps not generally known that it was the first highway in the present county limits to receive attention after the removal of the seat of justice to Bryan. Beginning at the Indiana line, northwest of Billingstown, it followed its present course due east until it reached the point where now stands the Winebrinerian church, a little north and east of Nettle Lake. There it took an angling southeasterly course until it struck the section line again at the quarter post on the south side of section seventeen in Bridgewater township. It then ran due east again until the Fulton county boundary was reached. The angling part of this road has long since been abandoned, but the rest of it is a well-kept and much-traveled highway.

At a special session of the Board, held on July 19, 1841, it was decided to locate the county jail on the site heretofore mentioned, and Erastus H. Leland, a practicing attorney, was appointed a special commissioner to sell at public auction the job of clearing off the lot. It is said that the usual price at that time for clearing land was four dollars an acre, but Lawyer Leland disregarded all precedents in the matter and presented a bill of seven dollars for clearing this lot and the same was allowed by the commissioners. The contract for building the jail was let to John McDowell, the price to be paid for the work being $1,050.

In January, 1842, the commissioners took up the question of building a new court house. The land-owners who donated the site had also agreed to pay a certain amount for the erection of a substantial county building, but no move had as yet been made tending to such action on their part. At a session, held February 14, it was ordered "that the court house that is to be erected in and for this county be placed in the center of the public square in the town of Bryan—said square not including the two lots deeded to the county at the south end of said square." The board further ordered "that the plan drawn by H. Daniels for a court house, specifying the dimensions of said court house to be fifty-three feet by eighty-seven and a half feet, including the porches, be, and is hereby adopted by the board for a court house for the county of Williams." But there seems to have been a disagreement in the interpretation of the covenants of Messrs. Bryan and Trevitt, for under date of March 8, 1842, we find the following entry: "The commissioners, Payne C. Parker and Oney Rice, Jr., direct the auditor to make an entry on the record that they consider the understanding between the proprietors of the town of Bryan and the commissioners of Williams county, when they received the bond for the erection of a court house, the following, namely: That signers of the bond were to lay out judiciously, under the direction of the commissioners of Williams county, $8,500, and nothing further." The bond here mentioned was one given by John A. Bryan and William Trevitt, as principals, and Alfred P. Edgerton as security, for payment of a certain amount towards the building of the court house.

An estimate was made of the probable cost of the building, and at a special meeting, held April 20, 1842, the commissioners ordered the clerk to enter on the record the following copy of a letter to Messrs. Bryan and Trevitt: "We, the commissioners of Williams county, Ohio, have agreed upon and adopted a plan, drawn by an architect of this section, the size of which [court house] is fifty by sixty-eight feet, to be executed in the Ionic order; the estimated cost in cash shall not exceed $10,000. The temporary court house is very uncomfortable and cold; the Court, complaining to the commissioners, say that they shall hold and call upon the commissioners to see that the house is made comfortable and more convenient."

This literary appeal had the desired effect, and July 9, 1842, John A. Bryan and William Trevitt, by their agent, Giles H. Tomlinson, who still resides in the county, entered into an article of agreement to erect a court house. Another year passed, however, with little progress made, and at the March session, in 1843, the commissioners appointed James Shorthill a special envoy to see that the old building be "chuncked and daubed," which conveys the impression at least that they expected to use it indefinitely. This "chuncking and daubing" cost the county the sum of $7.08.

But the walls of the new court house were increasing in height. and on July 14, 1843, the board directed the Auditor to cause notice to be given in some newspaper of general circulation in the county that they would receive sealed proposals for the furnishing of the inside work of the building; and upon the same date a contract was entered into with John Bostater for the making of the window blinds and sash. At the December session, 1843, Giles H. Tomlinson was allowed the sum of thirty-three dollars for hooks furnished for the court house, on which to hang window shutters. Yet the project seemed hoodooed. A year later, on October 1, 1844, the commissioners met in special session "for the purpose of examining the court house," and after having done so were convinced that Messrs. Bryan and Trevitt had failed to carry on the work as stipulated in the contract, and complete it within the denominated time. It appeared that Bryan and Trevitt refused to proceed further with the work, and the commissioners therefore declared the contract "abandoned and vacated." They accordingly ordered the following notice published in the Defiance Democrat:

"Notice is hereby given that the commissioners of Williams county will attend at their office in said county on the 25th day of October, A. D. 1844, for the purpose of receiving sealed proposals for the completion of the following work on the court house in said county, to-wit: Putting on the roof and crown, moulding of the cornice, putting in joists for the second floor and timber and studding for the partitions; to be done before the first of December, next. Also separate proposals will be received for the following work, to-wit: the balance of the cornice, eight columns, and the platform of the portico, and the chimneys and the cupelo, and the painting of the work; the whole to be finished according to the plan of the building and specifications, to be seen at the Auditor's office, and the whole to be completed by the first day of September, A. D., 1845, the pay to be cash or county orders at their cash value, at the option of the commissioners."

Upon the date mentioned, October 25, the board met, and the following day Giles H. Tomlinson was awarded the contract of doing the specified work, the time for completion being extended until December 1, 1845. But eighteen months elapsed after the letting of this contract, and yet the court house was not completed. Either the workmen engaged were inefficient or the commissioners were hard to please, for on April 13, 1847, the latter met in special session and declared that Mr. Tomlinson had failed to fulfil his contract. They accordingly pronounced the same forfeited and ordered another sale of the job of completing the building. In the meantime, however, the commissioners had brought suit against Messrs. Bryan and Trevitt, as principals, and A. P. Edgerton, as security, to enforce compliance with the full terms of the bond, which has been heretofore mentioned; and after the usual finesse and delay, incident to litigation, a judgment had been obtained at the May term of the Common Pleas Court for $6,402.65, together with costs. Messrs. Bryan, Trevitt and Edgerton then made a proposition looking to a compromise with the County Commissioners. In consideration of the judgment being assigned to Mr. Edgerton, they agreed to refund to the county, with interest, the amount already paid to Mr. Tomlinson, and to have the court house fully completed by December 1, 1847. The board held a special meeting on July 21, 1847, and after considering the proposition decided to accept it. Security being required, a contract was drawn up with Wm. Yates, Levi Cunningham, Jacob Bowman, S. E. Blakeslee, E. H. Leland and A. J. Tressler as securities for Messrs. Bryan, Trevitt and Edgerton. This arrangement finally brought about the completion of the work, and in January, 1848, six years after the first action of the commissioners concerning the matter, the court house was reported as ready for occupancy. The citizens of Bryan, for the purpose of adding to the appearance of the square, and incidentally the appearance of the village, offered to contribute one-half the money needed to construct a board fence around the county's real estate.

But the difficulties attending the building of the court house were not ended yet. Mr. Edgerton caused the work to be continued, but after its supposed completion, although occupied, the commissioners refused to accept it; and at a special session, held on April 10, 1850, they employed William Carter, as an attorney, to commence suit on the contract. After pending in the courts of Williams and Defiance counties for over three years, this suit was settled by Mr. Edgerton paying to the county the sum of five hundred and fifty dollars. Frequent entries appear in the Commissioners' record of subsequent allowances for needed repairs—resulting from faulty construction—and indeed the court house demanded considerable "patching" until replaced by the present commodious structure. The commissioners stoutly refused for a long time to pay Mr. Tomlinson's bill for work performed on the contract, but he finally succeeded in worrying it from them and received payment to the amount of his claim.

Among the first of the legal contests, in the brick court house, was the trial of Andrew F. Tyler, who, with Daniel Heckerthorn, was indicted for the murder of the little boy—David Schamp. The particulars of the horrible crime are given in the Jefferson township chapter. Tyler was tried at the September term of the Supreme Court, in 1848, was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. He was executed on January 26, 1849. Heckerthorn was tried at the November term of the common pleas court, 1849, found guilty and also sentenced to be hanged, but the Governor of Ohio, on account of his youth (a boy of sixteen years) and limited mental capacity, commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life in the Ohio penitentiary. There he remained for ten years, when he was offered a conditional pardon by the Governor.

The importance of the opening of a railroad was early impressed upon the minds of the enterprising citizens of the county, and about 1846-47, a project, originating with the late Judge Ebenezer Lane and others, was undertaken to build a road from Cleveland or Norwalk, running westward and crossing the Maumee river at the foot of the rapids, and from thence making its way on a west line to Chicago. It was known as the Junction railroad and a considerable amount of work was performed on it, including massive abutments for the bridge which was to cross the river to the northern bank at Maumee City. The corporation, in order to facilitate operations west of this point, solicited aid of stock subscriptions by individuals, towns, townships and counties, and succeeded in gathering an amount which aggregated a considerable sum. Regarding this first railroad enterprise, and in response to the request for stock subscription by Williams county, the Commissioners, at their session, held March 15, 1852, ordered "That public notice be given the qualified electors of Williams county to meet at their several places of holding elections in their respective townships on Monday, the 5th day of April, next, between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m. and 4 o'clock p. m., of said day and then and there cast their ballots 'for subscription' or 'against subscription' of $100,000 stock for the location and completion of the Junction railroad in said county, conditioned that said road shall pass from Maumee City westward through the said county of Williams to the Indiana state line, within two years from this date, and touching the following points, to-wit: West Unity, Montpelier, LaFayette (now Pulaski), Bryan and Center in said county, and that there shall be a junction of its branches at one of the above named towns in said county of Williams, and that said $100,000 be equally distributed on the several branches on said road in said county of Williams." Apparently pleased with this prospect of receiving railroad accommodations, connecting the leading trading points of the county, the proposition was carried by a good majority and on April 7, 1852, the Commissioners subscribed the necessary stock, payable on April 1, 1867.

But another movement was on foot which was destined to defeat the above mentioned project, even if it had, in fact, any prospect of realization. The Southern Michigan & Northern Indiana railroad company, realizing the damage it would be to their interests if the Junction enterprise should be successful, resolved upon the construction of an air line westward from Toledo to connect with their main line at Elkhart, Indiana. In 1852, the same year that the people of Williams county voted the appropriation, representatives of this company (whose corporate name is now the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern), appeared quietly in the field with a corps of engineers and surveyed the route, asking no aid of stock subscriptions—only right of way and donation of sufficient ground for passenger and freight conveniences. The company was very undemonstrative in its movements, and on February 18, 1853, J. H. Sargeant, acting chief engineer and superintendent of the air-line road, called upon Hon. Edward Foster and passed into his hands a sum of money, requesting him to proceed without delay and receive donations or purchase the necessary right of way and depot grounds for that part of the road which would pass through Williams county. Much of the land being owned by non-residents, the labor was protracted, and some resident owners acting stubbornly, Mr. Foster met with embarrassments and delays in the prosecution of his work. Messrs. Edgerton and Trevitt, however, in addition to the very liberal donation of nearly sixteen acres of ground in Bryan for passenger and warehouse purposes, also generously donated the right of way through all their Williams county land, of which they held large tracts. March 5, 1855, Mr. Foster closed his business with the company and their contractors, and on October 25, following, received the last payment for his services.

The first conductor on the road after passenger trains commenced running, in 1856, was David Moore. William D. Billings, a long time resident of Bryan, was the second agent at the station after trains had reached the county seat—his predecessor, a Mr. Johnson, who had opened the office, only remaining in the employ of the company a few months. Previous to this, Mr. Billings had had charge of the Middlebury (now Vistula) station, on the old-line road. The first printed through "time table, No. 1," took effect "on Monday, June 8, 1857, at 5 o'clock a. m." The stations named on the table were Toledo, Springfield, Centerville, Delta, Wauseon, Archbold, Stryker, Bryan, Edgerton, Butler, Waterloo, Corunna, Kendalville, Rome, Wawaka, Ligonier, Millersburg, Goshen and Elkhart. Going west, the train left Toledo at 9:00 a. m. and reached Elkhart at 7:10 p. m., making the distance between the two points in a little over nine hours, barring accidental delays. Another train moved from Elkhart on its eastward trip at 9:40 a. m., and was due at Toledo at 6:40. Trains passed each other at Edgerton, that station being 64.3 miles west of Toledo, and 68.5 miles east of Elkhart. The trains were decidedly, if not badly, "mixed"—a locomotive, tender, one passenger and one freight car. Two trains, thus formed, made up the entire rolling stock of the road.

Considerable of the foregoing matter relating to the first railroad, has been taken from Goodspeed's History of Williams county, and is probably in the main correct. It is interesting to make comparison between the service then and that which is given to the people to-day. Now, one of the least powerful of the many locomotives, which almost hourly pass over the several railroads that thread the county, would draw with ease a train consisting of at least three times the tonnage of all the rolling stock in use on the Air-Line in 1857. Sixteen passenger trains, two fast mail and one fast express pass over the Lake Shore daily; and on an average twenty-five through and local freights carrying from 40,000 to 80,000 pounds per car. The Wabash railroad, with its four branches centering at Montpelier, doubtless far exceeds the above showing in magnitude, and the Cincinnati Northern has a large and growing business. The late Horace S. Knapp, a historical writer of some note, closed a similar comparative statement as follows: "The transition almost confuses the mind to contemplate, when viewed in all its length and breadth. What marvelous changes in the means of transmitting intelligence have been produced in a period of less than half a century! Today, at any railroad station in Williams county, connected with which is a telegraph office, one may transmit a message 2,000 miles distant, or even to Europe or the Orient, and receive to it an answer in less space of time than, a half century ago, would be consumed by the speediest mode of travel then known to make the distance from Pioneer to Stryker and return, and, during the January and June floods that then appeared as regularly as the seasons, to communicate with a neighbor ten miles distant. Imagine a pioneer who, about three months after the Presidential election of 1832, had received an Eastern letter or newspaper, conveying intelligence that Andrew Jackson had been re-elected President of the United States in the preceding November. If the settler is a Jackson man, he dons his hunting shirt and coon-skin cap and sallies forth in search of neighbors of his political faith to communicate the glad tidings, and mingle rejoicings. News of the result of a presidential election would now be known in every considerable city and town in the United States and Europe within twenty-four hours after the close of the polls."

The first postoffice that was established within the present limits of Williams county was located in the village of Lafayette and bore the name of Pulaski, by which the place has since been known. John Perkins was the first postmaster there, and his commission was dated, May 1, 1837. The other offices established in the county, prior to 1861, with the date of establishment and names of the first official incumbents, were as follows: Williams Centre, John B. Kimmel, January 5, 1839; Bryan, Thomas Shorthill, February 22, 1841; West Unity, John Rings, September 28, 1842; Spring Lake, Martin Perky, August 30, 1843; Northwest, William H. Billings, August 30, 1843; Eagle Creek, Robert Ogle, August 30, 1843; Nettle Lake, Augustus Porter, March 6, 1846; Bridgewater, Chandler Holt, April 14, 1846; Montpelier, Conroy W. Mallory, December 28, 1846; Deer Lick, Elias Barrett, April 1, 1847; Durbin's Corners, George W. Durbin, August 13, 1850; Pioneer, Philetus W. Norris, April 16, 1851; Luke's Corners, John Luke, April 29, 1854; Edgerton, Jackson M. Wood, June 3, 1854; Primrose, Lewis Keith, July 29, 1854; Stryker, William Sheridan, Jr., June 15, 1855. Pulaski, Bryan, West Unity, Northwest, Montpelier, Pioneer, Edgerton and Stryker still exist as mail distributing points, the others having been discontinued. In a few cases the discontinuance was due to lack of patronage, but in the main the recent and rapid extension of rural delivery has put the small offices permanently "out of business." There were also at one time post-offices called Lockport in Brady township, Phalanx in Springfield, and Domestic in Millcreek; but they have long since been abolished.

Of the gentlemen who first handled the mail at these early post-office establishments, the names of many are familiar among the pioneer records of the county. A number of them were called to higher official stations and are more extensively mentioned elsewhere in this volume; but a few have disappeared, either by removal or death, leaving no source from which material for a personal notice can be secured. One of these early "P. M.'s," however, we desire to mention here—George W. Durbin. Mr. Durbin was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 13, 1813, and lived and worked on a farm until eighteen years of age. He then went to Knox county, Ohio, and on August 20, 1838, to Jefferson township, Williams county, where he had previously purchased 100 acres of land, which is now owned and occupied by George A. Burns. He brought the first cook stove into the county and the first two-horse plow into Jefferson township. He applied to the Postoffice department and obtained the first postoffice in the township, and, as stated above, was appointed the first postmaster. The name given the office was Durbin's Corners and it was located at the farm residence of Mr. Durbin, two miles east of the little village of West Jefferson. Two or three years after its establishment the postoffice was moved "into town," but continued under the name of Durbin's Corners until 1882, when its cognomen was changed to Karle. Mr. Durbin taught the first school in Jefferson township, receiving forty-five dollars for a three months' term. He removed to Pioneer, in 1866, and for a time was in the hardware business, but later returned to agricultural pursuits and died on his farm in Madison township.

No community in these days can be said to have reached the progressive state until that infallible index to prosperous conditions —a newspaper—makes its periodical visits to an intelligent constituency. But it was not always thus. Seventy-five years ago "journalists" were not as plentiful as they are today, and the appetite for printed news was not sufficiently keen to cause one to endure martyrdom in attempting to "fill a long-felt want." So, for years after its organization, Williams county could not boast of a newspaper within her confines. In 1837, however, a sheet, "medium" in size, made its appearance in Defiance with the expressive title, Barometer, under the management of John B. Seemans. Although in politics Mr. Seemans was a Whig, the paper maintained a neutral position. The editor was a lawyer and a good writer, but his Barometer relied mainly for its support upon the county patronage, and its existence was a brief one. The next newspaper experiment in Williams county, according to H. S. Knapp—one of the promoters—was planned in Columbus in the winter of 1842-3, and originated with a few leading Democratic politicians, among whom were United States Senator

Benjamin Tappan of Steubenville, James J. Farran of Cincinnati, Gen. James B. Steedman of Lucas county, Dr. William Trevitt and Col. S. Medary of Columbus, and a number of others. In discussing the most eligible point for the location of the new press it is said that Bryan, although then the county seat, was not discussed, the town having scarcely any population or business, except during court terms and tax-paying seasons, and a greater portion of the year the roads were in such a state that an interdict was almost placed upon travel. And so Defiance, the recognized business town in the county, and regarded as the most eligible political center of any place in Northwestern Ohio, was determined upon as the point for the establishment of the new paper. Accordingly, a journal, entitled the Northwestern, by J. B. Steedman & Co., was established in the spring of 1843. Its life was precisely twelve months in length, and when Vol. I, No. 52, was issued, the publication was suspended indefinitely, never fully realizing the anticipations of its projectors and friends. Mechanically, the paper is said to have been a rare specimen of typographical excellence, its managing printer and supervisor being Stephen T. Hosmer, a good workman, who was well known throughout the Maumee Valley. The printing material was sold, in May, 1844, to Samuel A. Hall, who put it aboard a canal boat and, accompanying it in person, started for some place in Indiana, wherever he might happen to find an opening. He finally landed at Logansport, and the Pharos of that city is the present day monument to his labors in Hoosierdom.

The first effort to establish a newspaper in Bryan was made by Thomas H. Blaker, who, on November 14, 1845, issued the Northwestern, a paper that was Democratic in politics. It was published on the same press and material which was used by John A. Bryan (for whom the town was named), in the publication of the Western Hemisphere, a paper started in Columbus, Ohio, in 1835, in opposition to the Ohio Statesman, then owned and published by Samuel Medary. The press, type and other fixtures were brought to Bryan from Columbus by a four-horse team, seventeen days of very hard driving being required to perform the journey. The office was brought to Bryan at the instance and proffered assistance of Dr. William Trevitt, who was one of the proprietors of the new county seat town. The Northwestern was published for something over a year, when it was suspended for a few weeks, the publisher being fully satisfied in the matter of experience. During the time of its publication, another old office was brought from Defiance to Bryan, and J. W. Wiley (who had been an associate publisher of the Defiance Democrat) issued the first number of the Williams County Democrat on November 19, 1846. This move was made more particularly at the instance of W. A. Stevens—then County Auditor and afterwards a banker in Bryan—for the purpose of taking the county printing away from Mr. Blaker, with whom Mr. Stevens had had some trouble. The Mexican war, however, aroused Mr. Wiley's patriotism, and, believing that a sword in Mexico would be more profitable to him than a pen in Williams county, he became a lieutenant in Capt. Daniel Chase's company. He afterwards went to Washington territory, where he established a paper and ended his earthly career, a victim of intemperance. The paper he established in Bryan was, as its name would indicate, Democratic in politics, but the entire office—press, materials and fixtures—was not worth to exceed one hundred dollars. The press was an old wooden concern of the Ramage pattern; and having fulfilled its mission it was permitted to lie around Bryan until it went the way of all material things.

Mr. Blaker's office was, about this time, sold at sheriff's sale for a portion of the purchase money, and Giles H. Tomlinson, who is still a resident of Williams county, became the purchaser. He gave it into the possession of Dr. Thomas Kent and E. H. Leland, who placed A. J. Tressler in charge and revived the Northwestern, Mr. Tressler publishing it for several months. Mr. Blaker then redeemed the office and commenced the publication of the Democratic Standard, a Democratic paper, on the same material, in July, 1847. He published this paper for something over six months, but early in its career it encountered opposition. Sometime during the month of August, 1847, Mr. Tressler went to Cincinnati and purchased another outfit, with which he again revived and published the Northwestern. He continued to publish this paper from September, 1847, to March, 1848, and then sold the office to W. A. Hunter. The latter was an eccentric individual, who had had some unfortunate journalistic experiences at Carrollton, Carroll county, and at Ashland, Ashland county; and one of the conditions of his purchase was that the material of the Democratic Standard (which had suspended publication) should be taken out of the county. This was done, and in June of the same year, 1848, Mr. Hunter commenced the publication of Equal Rights, a Democratic paper, the first issue of which contained the proceedings of the Democratic convention which nominated General Cass for the Presidency.

In November, 1848, Dr. John Paul and R. H. Gilson—respectively clerk of courts and county treasurer—procured a printing office at Cincinnati, and bringing it to Bryan, commenced the publication of a paper called the Spirit of the Age, with Charles Case (who afterwards represented the Fort Wayne, Indiana, district in Congress) as editor. Mr. Hunter at once abandoned the publication of Equal Rights at Bryan, and the Spirit of the Age maintained a sickly existence for but a few months, when it, too, suspended publication. John G. Kissell, who had come to the county with Mr. Hunter, then started and published for a short time the Family Visitor, in Bryan, a neutral paper, devoted to miscellany, family reading, etc., but was wholly divorced from politics. This paper lived but a few months and its demise again left Mr. Hunter alone in the field. Not long after the suspension of the publication of Equal Rights, at Bryan, Mr. Hunter removed his printing material to West Unity and resumed the publication of that paper there in March, 1849. Later, T. S. C. Morrison, who was afterwards a representative to the Ohio legislature from this district, became a partner of Mr. Hunter, but the firm, politically, was not harmonious, and Mr. Morrison retired. He subsequently removed to Napoleon, where he identified himself conspicuously with what was then orthodox Democratic journalism, held several county offices, and died there, leaving scarcely sufficient money to pay his funeral expenses. He was a brilliant writer and would doubtless have been one of note, had he lived. His death, occurring as it did in manhood's prime, was widely deplored.

Equal rights was issued from an upstairs room in the foundry building at West Unity, and Mr. Hunter continued its publication after the dissolution of partnership. The paper was a five-column folio in size, the columns being fifteen ems in width, and it was devoted chiefly to editorial comment, general information and advertisements—local news not yet having gained admission to the columns of such publications. The issue of July 31, 1850, is before the writer, and a curious advertisement therein extols the virtues of "American Oil, discovered 185 feet below the surface of the earth"—in Kentucky. "This astonishing medicine of Nature," reads the advertisement, "is a safe and efficacious remedy, both for external and internal diseases, if taken in moderate doses by persons in ill health." The wonderful "oil" mentioned was probably the product which Rockefeller now controls, but the place of discovery might suggest to some the beverage that has made Kentucky famous.

In the fall of 1849, Mr. Hunter was elected treasurer of Williams county, but served only one term. Upon the final settlement with him he was found to be delinquent for a considerable sum and suit was commenced against him and his bondsmen. Some time during the year 1852 Mr. Hunter changed the name of his paper to that of the Williams Democrat; but, as the name would indicate, the political complexion was not altered. This was at about the time, however, that new party alignments were being made upon the great issue of slavery extension; and either through pique or honest conviction, Mr. Hunter ceased the publication of a Democratic paper, and on August 10, 1853, launched the Republican Standard upon the sea of Williams county journalism. The Republican party was not as yet a political entity, but the new paper heartily supported the movement which in a few months led to such organization. The Republican Standard was not unlike its predecessor in size and general make-up, and it was issued from a building on Liberty street, between Jackson and North streets, in West Unity, where now stands the residence of Samuel Ayres.

On March 24, 1854, the county commissioners met in special session, and the proceedings of the meeting are recorded as follows: "The board compromised with William A. Hunter, former treasurer of Williams county, for the amount of his defalcation, by said Hunter giving said commissioners a warranty deed for lots Nos. 39 and 40, in the town of West Unity, and his printing press now on said premises, including the materials; said Hunter to have possession of said property for 7 months." After the expiration of this time, in the latter part of 1854, the commissioners sold the press and material to T. D. Montgomery, a practical printer from Hillsdale, Mich., who established in

Montpelier a neutral paper—devoted especially to local interests—and issued it under the name of Star of the West. After twinkling under his management for about two months, Mr. Montgomery transferred the Star to David Stauffer and Aaron Crissey, by whom it was conducted six months longer, when the material was sold to Frank Rosenberg, who removed it to Ottokee, then county seat of Fulton county, and there founded a Democratic organ. Mr. Hunter re-established the Republican Standard at Bryan, and in 1856 or 1857 sold the same to George L. Starr and Alvan Spencer, who conducted the paper under the editorial supervision of Mr. Spencer until December 31, 1857, when it was transferred to Isaac R. Sherwood and issued by him under the cognomen of Williams County Gazette. It was a six column folio, with columns fourteen ems in width, its dimensions being about one-half the present size of its lineal descendant—the Bryan Press. Mr. Sherwood conducted the paper alone until March 31, 1859, when Judson Palmiter of Ligonier, Ind., assumed editorial charge, Mr. Sherwood retaining an interest in the property. The office was in the Gilson block on Lynn street, where now stands the photograph gallery of Edwin F. Ditto. On the morning of September 7, 1859, fire destroyed the block and the Gazette office with all its material was consumed in the flames. Immediately after the fire a meeting was called by Schuyler E. Blakeslee to take in consideration the matter of getting a new press in Bryan immediately. This meeting recommended Lionel E. Rumrill to the Republicans as a man eminently qualified to conduct the organ of the party in Williams county. In accordance with such recommendation Mr. Sherwood sold his interest in the good will of the Gazette (the material having been burned) to Mr. Rumrill, who immediately formed a partnership with Mr. Palmiter and resuscitated the Gazette. Three half-sheet issues were gotten out by the new firm—the last one on October 6—when the partnership was dissolved by a mutual quarrel. Thereupon, Mr. Sherwood purchased the good will, and with new machinery started a paper which he called the "Williams County Leader—a continuation of the Williams County Gazette." The new paper was a seven-column folio, and Mr. Sherwood continued its publication in person until the call for troops, in 1861, when he enrolled his name as the first on the list of volunteers in Bryan.

Later changes in and additions to the newspapers of Williams county will be given in a subsequent chapter, and we will now return to that interesting personage, Mr. Hunter. After his divorce from the Democratic party, he became one of the most vindictive and uncompromising of the valiant few who boldly styled themselves "Abolitionists." The principles of the newly-organized Republican party came far short of meeting his views, and, in the spring of 1857, he launched a new periodical at Bryan, which he defiantly christened the Political Abolitionist. Its career was short but decidedly turbulent, and, in the spring of 1858 it ceased to exist. It was soon succeeded by the Business Bulletin, another venture of Mr. Hunter's, but after a very few issues this also suspended publication and the irrepressible publisher permanently retired from the Williams county journalistic field. He entered the more placid profession of the law and continued the practice for a time in Bryan, but, at the close of the war, he migrated to Iowa, re-entered the newspaper business, and died in that state a few years ago in comparatively good circumstances.

To complete the history of the efforts made to establish newspapers in Williams county, prior to 1861, we will state that Judge Joshua Dobbs and Capt. D. M. McKinley issued the first number of the Fountain City News, a Democratic paper, at Bryan, January 12, 1855. After a few months they sold out to John B. Shouf and Carl C. Allman, and the latter officiated as editor during the remainder of the life of the publication, which did not exceed a couple of years at most. It is said that a gentleman named George W. Roof, also at one time conducted a paper in Bryan, but as to who he was and the name and nature of his sheet diligent inquiry has failed to secure information. The Eagle was the first newspaper experiment at Montpelier. It was an organ of the Spiritualists and is said to have expired after a few issues. Judge Joshua Dobbs established a Democratic newspaper at Montpelier, in 1852, but its career was a brief one. Van Buren Shouf, afterwards a well-known newspaper man of the county, was the printer and manager of the enterprise.

David Stauffer, who is herein mentioned as an early newspaper publisher in Montpelier, was for years one of the most substantial and experienced business men of the county. Starting in life at fifteen years of age, he accepted a clerkship in a drygoods store at Mansfield, Ohio, where his parents then lived. Three years later his employer opened a branch store at Montpelier and Mr. Stauffer had charge of it until 1858, when, in company with another, he purchased the stock and managed the business until 1866. He then disposed of his interests and entered the mercantile business at Edgerton, but, in 1874, returned to Montpelier, where he conducted a hardware business for a number of years. Retiring from mercantile pursuits, in 1890, he began the publication of the Montpelier Leader and continued as its editor for some time. Mr. Stauffer was a Pennsylvanian, having been born in Lancaster county, that State, September 9, 1834. He died at his residence in Montpelier in 1900.

The United States census tells the story of the wonderful progress of Williams county between the years 1840 and 1860—at least so far as an increase in population is indicative of such movement. In 1840, when the major portion of Defiance and a part of Fulton were included in Williams county's territory, the population was 4,464. In 1850, when in size it had been reduced nearly one-half, the enumeration showed 8,018 inhabitants, and in 1860, 16,633—an increase of nearly 300 per cent in only twenty years. But there was yet room for more. As shown by the census, of a total of 263,203 acres of land, only 50,962 acres were reported as "plow-land" and 23,064 as "meadow-land," leaving 189,177 acres waiting for the woodman's ax.

CHAPTER VI

THE COUNTY'S WAR RECORD

DURING the interim between the organization of Williams county, in 1824, and the commencement of the war with Mexico, in 1846, the martial spirit of the people was kept in forced abeyance. This was due partially to the stern realities of a pioneer life, with which they had to contend, and partially to the lack of opportunity or occasion to show their war-like tendencies. A more or less nominal militia organization was effected and carried on in the county, but the annual musters were engaged in by the crowds who attended more because of the frolic and roystering than of any improvement in military discipline. Thus, a system that had been so popular and efficient during the old Indian wars on the frontier, had loosened its hold upon the public mind during a protracted period of profound peace. The cities and larger towns in the State were the only places where military drill was appreciated, and where strict discipline and military pride attained a proficiency nearly equal to that which prevailed in the regular army. In Williams county there were the usual musters, and several townships formed independent companies. Bryan had an artillery squad and secured from the State a brass field-piece. The agitation incident to the trouble with Mexico, however, took shape in the organization of a company which rendezvoused and was organized at Defiance, and to which some ten or twelve Williams county boys belonged. In May, 1846, President James K. Polk issued a call for troops, Ohio's quota being fixed at three regiments, and Governor Bartley found himself greatly embarrassed by a tender of the services of several times the number called for. But a recruiting station for the Fifteenth United States Infantry was opened at Defiance and volunteer enlistments were received, resulting in the organization of Company B, which was attached to said regiment and with it went to Mexico. The officers of Company B were Daniel Chase, captain; a Mr. Goodloe, first lieutenant, and J. W. Wiley (who was at that time editing a paper at Bryan), second lieutenant. Aside from the latter there is no record of the names of the other Williams county "boys" who marched away with the gallant Fifteenth, and there is only one Mexican war veteran now living in the county, Jacob C. Ryan of Bryan. Mr. Ryan was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in December, 1824. He went to Wooster, Ohio, in early manhood, and there enlisted in Company E, Third Ohio Infantry. With his regiment he entered Mexico, July 22, 1846, and served continuously until mustered out at New Orleans, June 20, 1847. At the battle of

Buena Vista he received three wounds, but fortunately neither of them were of such nature as to cripple him. Mr. Ryan came to Bryan in 1853 and has lived here since, following the carpenter trade until advancing years compelled him to desist.

The mutterings of internal strife, which had engaged the attention of statesmen for some years prior to 1860, in that year began to take tangible shape, and the people came to realize that the settlement of the questions of State sovereignty and slavery extension could no longer be deferred by legislative compromises. The result of the presidential election portended the abolition of slavery in the territories and all new states to be admitted thereafter; but in exactly what manner the decision in regard to State sovereignty should be made was a subject not agreed upon, even by national leaders at the north, where the dominant party disclosed its strength. The incoming national administration, in 1861, faced an unprecedented crisis in American history and apparently was uncertain how to proceed in the midst of the alarming dilemma that confronted it. A number of the slaveholding states had passed ordinances of secession, thereby exercising a right that had been generally claimed and not seriously disputed since the adoption of the Constitution, and those who desired the maintenance of the Union were vainly searching for a solution of the difficult problem. Able and patriotic statesmen, regardless of party affiliation, were giving their time and talents to the perplexing question, hoping to discover a pathway that would lead to a satisfactory adjustment of all differences—when all plans were disarranged by the firing on Fort Sumter, and the administration was afforded a pretext, if not a justification, for waging a vigorous war of suppression. This overt act on the part of the South cleared the atmosphere for those who had advocated a policy of coercion, and to a large extent lessened the number of those who had talked of peaceable secession.

But all were not of one mind. In Williams county, as elsewhere, there were those who denied the right and expendiency of the government's action; but they were comparatively few in number, and owing to that fact were the subjects of bitter denunciation, epithets and contemptuous opprobrium. The stigma attached to their names existed in the minds of the thoughtless long after the close of hostilities, but it should not be deemed "treasonable" at this late day to calmly consider historical facts. The writer may be pardoned if, before entering upon the proud record of Williams county during those dark days—which will occupy the web and the woof of this chapter—he pauses sufficiently long to merely extenuate the action of those "copperheads," as they were derisively called. Criticism of national administrations and their various acts has always been indulged in, whether in peace or war, and such conduct is not a Constitutional definition of treason. The accepted teachings of a lifetime can not be eradicated from the mind in a single day, unless such a change is wrought, as is sometimes done, by resolution of a national political convention. Nothing is so potent as the latter in forming public opinion, and there are recent examples to sustain the suggestion that the law of gravitation would be unblushingly denied, if necessary, to prove the loyalty of some to a political party. But the sovereignty of the states had been an accepted doctrine from the time of the adoption of the constitution; it was claimed by the New England states in 1814; it was recognized in 1820 by the Missouri Compromise, and again by the compromise of 1850; and when the Ship of State struck the quick-sands of sectionalism, in 1861, patriotic leaders of the North—even those who had bitterly opposed the institution of slavery—thought the time for dismemberment of the Union had arrived, and advised that the erring "sisters be allowed to depart in peace." Imbued so thoroughly with this doctrine—when President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling for troops and evinced a determination to force the seceding states back into the Union—it was but natural that some would oppose such action; nor did such conduct on their part mark them as traitors or make them any less deserving of respect as citizens. But it is not the purpose of this apparent digression to recall unpleasant memories or argue questions long since settled—we desire merely to record pertinent historical facts. Before leaving the subject, however, and as proof of the accepted doctrine of state sovereignty, we will give the following extract from Henry Cabot Lodge's recent "Life of Webster." On page 177, concerning "Webster's Reply to Hayne," Senator Lodge says: "When the Constitution was adopted by the votes of States at Philadelphia and accepted by the votes of States in popular conventions, it is safe to say that there was not a man in the country, from Washington and Hamilton on the one side to George Clinton and George Mason on the other, who regarded the new system as anything but an experiment entered upon by the States, and from which each and every State had the right peaceably to withdraw, a right which was very likely to be exercised."

The news of the firing on Fort Sumter was followed in a few days by the president's call for seventy-five thousand troops. By the 29th of April, just seventeen days after the first shot was fired, the old Buckeye State offered seventy-one thousand soldiers, and eight days later increased her offering to eighty-one thousand. The first mass meeting in Bryan was held at the court house on the evening of April 16th. Speeches were made by A. M. Pratt, W. A. Smith, Joshua Dobbs, S. E. Blakeslee and others. But those were days of deeds and not of words. Isaac R. Sherwood was the first man to tender his services as a volunteer. Two days later, April 18th, the first company of one hundred and twelve men took the cars for Toledo. This company, although raised at Bryan, contained men from all portions of the county. B. H. Fisher was captain, Edwin J. Evans first lieutenant and E. M. Deuchar was second. E. D. Bradley, a veteran of the Mexican war, raised a company at Stryker, of which he was captain, Amos L. Bradley, first lieutenant, and D. S. Tallerday, second lieutenant. These two companies enlisted in the three months' service and both served in the Fourteenth regiment.

Enlistments and company organizations followed in rapid succession, and while the Stryker and Bryan companies were the only completed organizations from the county in the three months' service they were not the only troops, as some twenty or thirty boys residing in the northern part joined Michigan regiments, others went into Indiana, and still others sought military organizations south and east. Not less than sixty boys thus found means to serve their country outside the county limits. Counting these and the two companies in the Fourteenth, with the excess of men over one hundred which they had, it will be seen that nearly three hundred men from the county were in the three months' service. The professions, merchants, mechanics, farmer boys and laborers, all were imbued with the same spirit and promptly laid aside their several vocations and joined in the supreme effort to preserve the Union of States. Gentlemen of the cloth laid aside their shepherd's crooks and went to the front in various capacities. During the four years of bloody warfare Ohio met every call for troops in advance of the time limit, and Williams county was always among the first to respond with her quota.

While the "boys" were at the front the citizens at home were not idle, and the devoted mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts, imbued with the same spirit which had taken their loved ones from them, assisted in organizing relief associations. On April 29th, the ladies of Bryan presented a beautiful banner to Captain Fisher's company, which was the first to depart from the county for the seat of war. There was much of this outward show of sympathy and interest during the first few months, but by the following year, after the disaster of the Peninsula campaign, matters settled down to a war basis and sentiment was banished in the interest of helpful needs. Public and private donations to the Federal cause were kept up until the final capitulation at Appomattox.

It would be impossible to trace the record of Williams county's valiant soldiers through the ranging fortunes of four years of bloody war; neither would space permit, should such be possible. Without disparagement to the heroic services of any, it shall be the purpose of this article to mention the organizations, which, as a whole, are more closely connected with Williams county than other military organizations. Reference is here made to the Fourteenth, Thirty-eighth, Sixty-eighth, One Hundredth, One Hundred and Eleventh, and One Hundred and Forty-second regiments of infantry, and the Third and Ninth regiments of cavalry. While other regiments may have achieved equal honors on the bloody fields, it is morally certain that none surpassed those mentioned in the performance of stern duty. The Fourteenth, in the three months' service, contained two Williams county companies and was organized at Toledo. In three days it was ready for the field, and in twelve days after the fall of Sumter it moved from Toledo to Camp Taylor, Cleveland, where it was drilled and the organization completed. On May 18th, 1861, it was transferred from the State to the general government. On the 22d, it received its arms at Columbus, then moved to Zanesville, Marietta, and Parkersburg, Va., at which latter place its first services were required in protecting bridges from the torch of the enemy. On the 29th, Clarksburg was reached, where trains were put to running for supplies. On June 2 the march from Webster to Phillipi (thirteen miles) was made on a dismal rainy night to surprise 2,000 Confederate cavalry, upon whom an artillery fire was poured at day break. The enemy was routed and scattered to the hills, leaving stores, arms and munitions behind them. The Fourteenth went into camp in the rear of the town of Phillipi, expeditions being sent out against the guerrilla bands which infested that region. It was engaged before the enemy at Phillipi, June 3, Laural Hill, July 8, and at Carrick's Ford, July 14, with a loss of eight brave men killed and many wounded. Of these, three were Williams county boys. Samuel Donaldson of Stryker was wounded at Laurel Hill on July 8; Frank Gero of Stryker was wounded on June 3 at Phillipi, and died on July 11; and Henry Reichelderfer of Bryan was killed July 13th at Carrick's Ford. The regiment remained in camp at Laurel Hill until July 22d, when, its term of service having expired, it was ordered home, arriving at Toledo July 25th, and on August 13, 1861, was mustered out of the United States' service.

The war had been in progress nearly six months and the "before breakfast job" of the three months men had been prolonged to nearly twice their term of service, and up to this date the Confederates had been successful on nearly every field. An enlistment for three years' service at this time meant more than a brief term of a few months. The first spontaneous outburst had been succeeded by a candid and thoughtful consideration of the momentous task, with the record of past events pointing to possible failure. This was the condition of affairs when the gallant Thirty-eighth was raised in response to the president's first call for three hundred thousand troops for a period of "three years or during the war." Capt. Edwin D. Bradley of Stryker, who commanded Company E, of the Fourteenth, accepted the colonelcy, and the second position went to Edward H. Phelps. Recruiting stations were established in Williams and adjacent counties and the headquarters of the embryo regiment were located at Defiance. Company encampments were opened in other places. Enlistments moved along slowly, but by September 22d, the regimental organization was complete, and on October 5, 1861, it was mustered into the service of the United States at Nicholasville, Ky. The work of drilling and equipping the regiment had been well attended to and by the time it was ordered to the field the discipline, drill and apparent efficiency of the regiment were alike creditable to the officers and the men.

It might be said that Company E, of the Fourteenth regiment in the three months' service was the nucleus of this regiment, and, as before stated, its captain was chosen as the colonel of the new organization, but he resigned on account of ill-health on February 6, 1862. That the reader may have some idea of the casualties of the regiment, let it be said that sixty-four men were commissioned as field, staff, and line officers, while thirty-six is the complement for a regiment. Of these, a few resigned and some were promoted, but it is safe to assert that at least twenty officers were killed or disabled in the service. The regiment lost one hundred and twenty-seven men, killed in battle or died of wounds; while the number who died from disease and accidents, or were incapacitated, either by wounds or ill-health, for further service, amounted to five hundred and thirty-one. The regiment when mustered in was fully a thousand strong, hence the casualties equalled at least sixty-five per cent of the number of men entering the service with the organization of the regiment.

The active service of the Thirty-eighth began in the army operating in Kentucky, under Gen. W. T. Sherman. It would be interesting to follow the regiment through its wonderfully active career of nearly four years at the front, but a brief resume of events must suffice. It participated in ten hard-fought battles, some of which were the most disastrous in the annals of the war. To reach these various scenes of carnage in several different states it traveled thousands of miles on weary marches, through rain and snow and mud, in intense heat or equally uncomfortable cold, wading streams, climbing and descending mountains, each soldier carrying, in full equipment, some sixty pounds of baggage. It is estimated that in ordinary warfare a soldier is under fire, in skirmishing and other desultory fighting, at least five times to each general engagement in which he participates; hence a record of battles is no fair estimate as to a soldier's actual service.

The Thirty-eighth fought under Buell in Kentucky, under Rosecrans and Grant in Tennessee, on the Atlanta campaign under Sherman and thence on the memorable "March to the Sea." At the assault on Mission Ridge it was on the extreme left, and though the fire from the Confederate batteries was hot and terrific, it moved up, up to the very summit, losing seven men killed and forty-one wounded. It pursued the enemy to Ringgold, Ga., then returned to Chattanooga and there "veteranized," only one hundred and twelve of the entire regiment refusing to continue in the service after the expiration of the first term of enlistment. January 14, 1864, the Williams county contingent of the regiment reached Bryan on veteran furlough and a grand ovation was tendered it. A vast outpouring of citizens met the soldier boys at the station and escorted them to Garver's Hall, where tables had been set and a hearty welcome was accorded them in the way of a bountiful repast. But the veterans, after more than two years' absence, were anxious to meet loved ones around the home fireside, and dispersed to their several homes to enjoy a thirty days' respite in the quiet pursuits of civil life. At the expiration of the furlough the regiment reported at Ringgold, Ga., and there resumed the routine of camp life until the beginning of the thrilling events in the campaign of 1864. It participated in the battles, marches and skirmishes of the Atlanta campaign and was among the first to enter the beleaguered city. Continuing the triumphal march to the sea and up through the Carolinas, fighting its way as enemies confronted it, the grand review at Washington put a fitting finale to the record of the preceding years.

The Sixty-eighth regiment of infantry was composed in part of Williams county troops. Company K was gathered almost entirely from this county and Company G had a large number. This regiment was organized in the state at large, in October, November and December, 1861, to serve three years. In the latter part of January, 1862, it moved to Camp Chase, and in the middle of February to Fort Donelson, Tenn., where it was assigned to Gen. Charles F. Smith's division. It moved, about the middle of March, to Pittsburg Landing, and at the battle there guarded ordnance and supply trains. In the spring of 1863 it worked on various canals in Louisiana, and, on April 25, it began to march around Vicksburg and reached the Mississippi at Grand Gulf, May 1, 1863, by a forced march; it fought at Thompson's Hill and subsequently at Raymond, Jackson and Champion Hill, and was engaged throughout the siege of Vicksburg. On February 5, 1864, it fought at Clinton and Jackson, Miss. Just before this it "veteranized" and soon after returned home, where it was received with all the "pomp and circumstance of glorious war." On June 10th, the regiment joined Sherman's army at Acworth, Ga., and during the remainder of the Atlanta campaign the Sixty-eighth was almost constantly under fire, being on the advance sixty-five days. It fought at Kenesaw Mountain, Big Shanty, Nickajack Creek, Atlanta, July 22d and 28th, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station. It then moved with Sherman to the sea, up through the Carolina campaign, then by the way of Washington to Louisville, Ky., whence it was ordered to Cleveland for payment and discharge—the latter taking place on July 18, 1865.

The One Hundredth regiment of Ohio volunteers had one company largely made up of Williams county boys. It was Company C and was commanded first by Henry Gilbert, captain; George Rings, first lieutenant, and B. F. Ewers, second lieutenant. This regiment was organized at Camp Toledo, O., in July, August and September, 1862, to serve three years, and was mustered out of service, June 20, 1865, in accordance with orders from the war department. The regiment participated in the defense of Knoxville, and after active duty in East Tennessee, moved, in the spring of 1864, to Tunnell Hill, Ga., and joined General Sherman. It participated in the Atlanta campaign, fighting in almost every battle. On August 6, it assaulted the Confederate works at Utoy Creek, in front of Atlanta, suffering a loss of 103 men, killed and wounded, out of 300 engaged. The regiment joined in the pursuit of Hood, participated in the desperate battles of Franklin and Nashville, and finally moved to Wilmington, N. C., where it was actively engaged. It lost during its term of service, sixty-five men killed in action; one hundred and forty-two wounded; twenty-seven died of wounds; one hundred and eight died of disease; three hundred and twenty-five were captured by the enemy, and eighty-five died in Confederate prisons.

Company C of the One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry was largely, if not entirely, a Williams county company. Its captain was Albert A. Archer, while its first and second lieutenants were Patrick H. Dowling and Rufus Bates, respectively. The One Hundred and Eleventh regiment was organized at Camp Toledo, O., September 5 and 6, 1862, to serve three years, and was mustered out of service June 27, 1865, in accordance with orders from the war department. It began its active military operations in Tennessee. After the various marches, expeditions, scouts and skirmishes, the regiment found itself, on November 14, 1863, confronted by Longstreet at Huff's Ferry. It charged with its brigade and was successful, forcing the Confederates back and losing but few men. At Loudon Creek the regiment skirmished briskly with the Sixth South Carolina and lost four killed and twelve wounded. In the engagement at Campbell's Station the regiment was for six hours exposed to the artillery fire of two Confederate batteries, though the loss was only eight, owing to the percussion shell used, which fell mainly in the rear. At the siege of Knoxville it lost six men killed and wounded. It skirmished at Blair's Cross Roads and Dandridge, Tenn. It participated in the Atlanta campaign, fighting at Buzzard's Roost Gap, Dalton, Resaca, Kenesaw, Pine Mountain, Lost Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Chattahoochee River, Peachtree Creek, siege of Atlanta and the skirmishes at Utoy Creek and Lovejoy Station. It skirmished at Columbia, Tenn., and repulsed two charges of the enemy near Franklin. It fought desperately in the engagement that followed, losing in this "hottest battle of the war" twenty-two men killed on the field and forty wounded out of the one hundred and eighty men engaged. The regiment fought gallantly both days at Nashville, and in a charge on the second day captured three Confederate battle flags and a large number of prisoners, losing seven killed and fifteen wounded. Soon after this it participated in the Carolina campaign, which ended hostilities. The regiment numbered one thousand and fifty men when it entered the service and received eighty-five recruits. Two hundred and thirty-four were discharged for disability, disease and wounds; two hundred died of disease contracted in the service; two hundred and fifty-two were killed in battle or died of wounds, and four hundred and one were mustered out.

The One Hundred and Forty-second regiment of Ohio volunteer infantry was organized at Camp Chase, O., May 13, 1864, to serve one hundred days. It was composed of the Twenty-second battalion, Ohio National Guard, from Knox county; Sixty-eighth battalion, Ohio National Guard, from Williams county; and a part of the Sixty-ninth battalion, Ohio National Guard, from Coshocton county. On May 14 the regiment left Columbus, O., for Martinsburg, W. Va., where it remained, drilling, until May 19, when it left for Washington City. From Washington it marched to Fort Lyon. The regiment remained at Fort Lyon until June 5th, when orders were received to report to General Albercombie, at White House Landing. The regiment took steamer at Alexandria, on June 7th, and arrived at White House on June 9th, but was immediately sent to guard a supply-train through the Wilderness to General Grant's front, near Cold Harbor. The regiment was then ordered to report at Bermuda Hundred, but, without being permitted to land, it was conveyed on transports to Point of Rocks. On August 19 the regiment received orders to repair to Washington City, and thence to Camp Chase, O., where it was mustered out, September 2, 1864, on expiration of term of service.

The Third Ohio volunteer cavalry, containing Company H as Williams county's contingent, was organized from the State at large, at Monroeville, Huron county, O., from September 4, 1861, to December 11, 1861, to serve three years. On the expiration of their term of service, the original members (except veterans) were mustered out, and the organization composed of veterans and recruits was retained in service until August 4, 1865, when it was mustered out in accordance with orders from the war department. Company H was commanded originally by Charles W. Skinner, with William Maxwell and Samuel J. Hansey as first and second lieutenants, respectively. The regiment's first initiation into actual warfare was during the siege of Corinth, Miss., beginning on April 30, 1862. After occupying various positions and participating in numerous foraging and other expeditions and several skirmishes, the first battalion of the Third had a sharp engagement with the enemy at Munsfordville, Ky., losing two killed and twelve wounded. In a severe attack on the enemy, near Bardstown, Ky., the Third lost six men killed, twenty wounded and seventeen captured. After the battle of Stone River, in Tennessee, the regiment pursued the enemy, capturing one of his trains, and then encamped at Murfreesboro. The regiment fought at Middleton and McMinnville, losing many killed and wounded. It fought on the Shelbyville Pike, near Farmington, Tenn., losing in the latter engagement two killed and twenty-three captured. After "veteranizing" and being furloughed home, it took the field again in Tennessee, fought the Confederates at Decatur, Ala., at Moulton, Ala., and at Noonday Creek. A severe fight was had at Peachtree Creek, and in the return raids into Tennessee. It participated in the Kilpatrick and the Stoneman raids around Atlanta, skirmished at Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station in pursuit of Hood. It fought at Franklin, Tenn., losing heavily, after which it pursued Hood into Alabama, and then participated in the Wilson raid, fighting at Selma, Columbus and Macon, and participated in the chase of Jeff. Davis.

The Ninth Ohio volunteer cavalry was organized in 1863, to serve three years; Companies A, B, C, and D, at Camp Zanesville, O., in January, and the other eight companies (of which H was from Williams county—William Stough, captain; James P. Caldwell, first lieutenant, and John Frey, second lieutenant) at Camp Dennison, O., in September, October and December. It was mustered out July 20, 1865, at Lexington, N. C. The regiment was not completed and united in the field until the spring of 1864, when it saw plenty of service in Alabama. Seven hundred men of the Ninth, with other troops under Rousseau, were sent to destroy the Atlanta and West Point railroad. This was done amidst numerous skirmishes with the enemy, whereby the Ninth lost twenty-six men, mainly captured while foraging. After the fall of Atlanta the regiment, about seven hundred strong, marched to the sea with Sherman, fighting almost daily with the enemy and quite severely at Waynesboro. A brisk skirmish was had near Savannah, Ga., and at Aiken, S. C. So many of the horses failed on the march that a portion of the cavalry was organized into a "dismounted" command. On the night of March 9, 1865, General

Kilpatrick went into camp with the Third brigade and the dismounted men about three miles in advance of the remainder of his command. Early on the morning of the 10th, at Monroe's Cross Roads, N. C., a large force of Confederates dashed into camp, capturing the wagons, artillery and many of the officers and men. The excitement was intense, but the dismounted men rallied, opened a hot and destructive fire on the enemy, forcing them back and recapturing all the stores, during which twenty-five Federal and seventy-five Confederate soldiers were killed. The man who accomplished this splendid result, who turned defeat into victory and won a brigadier general's star, was none other than the late William Stough, of Bryan, who entered the service as captain of a Williams county company. The Ninth fought at Averysboro and Raleigh, and after doing some guard duty was mustered out.

The Confederacy was crushed, the South was over-powered and the citizen soldiery was no longer imbued with the military spirit. It was "Home, Sweet Home," in the minds of all. The History of Williams county soldiers is a record of heroism and endurance, of which every citizen should be proud. They supported the flag on scores of bloody battlefields, and there they fought and suffered. The roll of honor shows nearly a thousand killed and wounded in battle. The graves of the dead mark a victorious pathway through many states of the Union. In many a charge our soldiers performed feats unsurpassed in the annals of war. They were at the front in many battles; and, although sometimes repulsed, they were never dishonored.

The field and staff officers of the various regiments, in which Williams county was represented, were subject to frequent change, there being resignations, discharges and deaths. A number of resignations were due to promotions to higher rank in the same or other organizations, and the places thus made vacant were filled by promotions. A number of line officers were chosen from among Williams county soldiers, and usually promotions were made from the companies wherein the vacancies occurred. Some of the Williams county officers are given more extended mention on other pages of this volume, but it will be eminently appropriate to mention a few of them here.

Col. Edwin D. Bradley, who entered the service as captain of a Williams county company with the three months' troops and was also the first colonel of the Thirty-eighth regiment, was a veteran of the war with Mexico. He was born August 28, 1804, at Litchfield, Conn., of English descent. After a preliminary education he read law for a couple of years, but on account of ill health was compelled to abandon his studies. In 1835 he came to Sandusky, O., where he engaged in agriculture until the Mexican war began, when he commenced recruiting a company for service. It became Company F, with Colonel Bradley as captain, and was assigned to the First Ohio volunteer infantry. He commanded this company until the regiment was mustered out of service, in June, 1847. On his return from Mexico he came to Williams county and engaged in mercantile business at Lockport, Evansport and Stryker, finally locating permanently at the latter place, where he died a few years since. On the occurrence of the secession movement Colonel Bradley was among the first to respond, and after a short service as captain of Company E, in the Fourteenth regiment, he was commissioned as colonel and raised the Thirty-eighth, or "Williams county regiment." Advancing age and failing health compelled his resignation in February, 1862.

Charles Greenwood entered the service as captain of Company A, in the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry. He was promoted to Major of the regiment on February 6, 1862, and to lieutenant colonel on November 25, 1863. He resigned his commission, August 12, 1864. Andrew Newman entered the service on September 1, 1861, as first lieutenant of Company H, of the Thirty-eighth regiment. He was promoted to the captaincy on July 19, 1862, and to major on November 3, 1864. He was mustered out with the regiment July 12, 1865. Alphonso A. Evans enlisted as a private on Septemebr 3, 1861, in Company E, of the Thirty-eighth. He was promoted to quartermaster sergeant June 25, 1863; to second lieutenant of Company K June 27, 1864; to first lieutenant of Company E January 20, 1865; was appointed regimental quartermaster on February 3, 1865, and was mustered out with the regiment, July 12, 1865.

Rev. John Poucher was the chaplain of the Thirty-eighth regiment throughout its entire career. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, December 10, 1824, and came to America in the fall of 1854, passing the winter following in Shanesville, Tuscarawas county, O. In the spring of 1855 he engaged in milling in Bridgewater township, Williams county, and continued in that business during the greater part of his life, for years being one of the proprietors of the Unity Mills, at West Unity. He joined the Central Ohio conference of the Methodist-Episcopal church in 1857, and became widely known as a preacher of that faith. Upon the organization of the Thirty-eighth regiment he was elected by its members and commissioned by Governor Tod as chaplain of the same, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. While acting as post chaplain at Nashville, Tenn., he received a severe internal injury while assisting a wounded soldier to the cars, and suffered therefrom considerably; but otherwise he escaped unscathed.

Lieutenant Joseph B. Coons, of the Thirty-eighth, enlisted as a private in Company C, on August 25, 1861. He was promoted to sergeant major on May 10, 1862, to second lieutenant March 16, 1863, and to first lieutenant of Company I April 13, 1864. Edward P. McCutchen entered the service as corporal of Company E of the Thirty-eighth, was appointed sergeant February 19, 1862; promoted to sergeant major February 25, 1864, and to first lieutenant of Company G on May 18, 1865. Albert W. Dolph was mustered in as a private in Company A of the Thirty-eighth; was appointed first sergeant; promoted to quartermaster sergeant, and afterwards to first lieutenant of Company D. Morton A. Amadon enlisted as a private in Comapny C, was promoted to commissary sergeant, and afterwards discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability. Alfred Plummer enlisted as a private in Company E, promoted to hospital steward, "veteranized" and was mustered out with the regiment. John A. Baird enlisted as a musician in Company H, was promoted to fife major, then to principal musician of the regiment and was mustered out September 13, 1864, on expiration of term of service.

A large majority of the soldiers which comprised the Sixty-eighth regiment were gathered from other counties, and consequently Williams was not extensively represented among the field and staff officers. There were three exceptions, however, Charles Bates serving as regimental quartermaster, Martin Perky as chaplain, and Jacob A. Dorshimer as commissary sergeant. Dr. Charles Bates was born in Morrow county, O., January 4, 1842, and came to Williams county with his parents in 1852. At the alarm of war he was studying medicine, but enlisted at the first call in Company B, First Michigan infantry, being soon afterward discharged on account of illness. In November, 1861, he again enlisted as a private in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and on the organization of the regiment was appointed sergeant major, which position he held until his promotion to second lieutenant April 6, 1862. In May, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant, and in 1864 to captain, which commission he declined. After the war he practiced medicine at his home in Columbia, Northwest township, until his death, March 23, 1881.

The One Hundredth regiment had no field or staff officers from Williams county, but the One Hundred and Eleventh had three—Lieutenant Colonel Isaac R. Sherwood, Sergeant Major George H. Curtis, and Commissary Sergeant James C. Thomas. Colonel Sherwood is given extended mention in the chapter devoted to "Official Honors." George H. Curtis entered the service as a private in Company H, August 20, 1862. He was transferred to Company C in December, 1863; promoted to sergeant major May 1, 1864, and was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., on November 30, 1864. James C. Thomas was born in Florence township, Williams county, in 1843. He enlisted, August 14, 1862, as a private in Company C of the One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio volunteer infantry, and soon thereafter was appointed corporal. On June 13, 1863, he was promoted to commissary sergeant and was mustered out with the regiment, June 27, 1865. For several years past he has been connected with a book publishing establishment, with headquarters at Chicago.

There were no field and staff officers from Williams county in the One Hundred and Forty-second Ohio infantry, but in the Third Ohio cavalry there were several. Charles W. Skinner entered the service on August 20, 1861; was appointed first lieutenant of Company H, September 14, captain October 10, and major of the regiment on February 14, 1863. He held the latter position until September 8, 1864, when he resigned. Francis P. Gates also held a major's commission in this regiment. He entered the service as second lieutenant of Company E, and was promoted to first lieutenant on June 20, 1862. On March 5, 1863, he was promoted to captain of Company H, and on November 30 was promoted to major. He was mustered out with his regiment on August 4, 1865. Joseph Berry was appointed sergeant of Company H; promoted to sergeant major of the regiment; to second lieutenant of Company D and to first lieutenant of the same, but was not mustered. He "veteranized" and was mustered out with Company D on August 4, 1865. Edward A. Haines entered the service as sergeant of Company D; was promoted to battalion sergeant major; to second lieutenant of Company H; to first lieutenant of Company I, and was mustered out November 25, 1864, at Louisville, Ky., on expiration of term of service. Jesse N. Squires entered the service as sergeant of Company B; was promoted to battalion commissary sergeant; to regimental commissary sergeant; to first lieutenant of Company H, and to captain of the same. From April 3, 1865, until mustered out, he was on detached duty as acting inspector general at Second Division cavalry headquarters. William O. Johnston entered the service as a private in Company H, and was promoted to regimental commissary sergeant. He was a prisoner of war for a long time, and was mustered out, April 7, 1865, at Columbus, O., on expiration of term of service. He afterwards practiced law in Williams county, was prosecuting attorney, mayor of Bryan, and moved to Tennessee several years ago. William H. Gardner entered the service as a private in Company H; was promoted to regimental saddler sergeant, and was mustered out June 15, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn., by order of War Department. William Hinman enlisted in the Third Ohio cavalry, Company H, August 20, 1861; took part in the battle of Shiloh, the pursuit and capture of John Morgan, the battle of Mission Ridge, and was discharged in August, 1862. He re-enlisted in the same company and regiment in 1864, and served till the close of the war, being in the party that pursued and captured Jefferson Davis. He was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., June 17, 1865.

In the Ninth Ohio cavalry Williams county was represented by Company H, and three of its members—William Stough, John Frey and Thomas D. Stevenson—achieved the distinction of being field and staff officers. William Stough was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1821, and grew to manhood in Richland county, O., where his parents moved when he was about twelve years old. He learned the cabinet-maker's trade, and in 1842 moved to the village of Pulaski (then called Lafayette) in Williams county, where he engaged in that occupation. In 1852 he began merchandising and three years later moved his establishment to Bryan. At the time of the fall of Fort Sumter he was engaged in lumbering and farming, but he immediately turned his attention to military affairs and soon had a company of one hundrd and twenty men, which became Company H, Thirty-eighth regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry. General Stough served as captain of this company, leading it in all engagements until the fall of 1862 when, owing to ill health, he was compelled to resign and come home. Beginning in July, 1863, he enlisted a company of cavalry, which became a part of the Ninth Ohio cavalry, and as captain he engaged with it in active service in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was appointed major of the regiment, and, on October 1, 1864, was commissioned lieutenant colonel. The record of his regiment in the Carolina campaign is given elsewhere in this chapter, as is also General Stough's gallant service, for which he was brevetted colonel and brigadier general. He was mustered out with his regiment and returned to Williams county, where he resided until his death.

John Frey entered the service as second lieutenant of Campany H, Ninth Ohio Cavalry; was promoted to first lieutenant and regimental quartermaster, and mustered out with the regiment, July 20, 1865. Thomas D. Stevenson entered the service September 15, 1863. He was appointed saddler of Campany H; promoted to regimental saddler sergeant, and was mustered out with his regiment July 20, 1865.

Did space permit it would be a pleasure to include the names and service of the "men who bore the guns," many of whom performed feats of daring and services of incalculable value to the cause, wholly prompted by the innate desire for national preservation, and without the hope of official reward. Some even declined promotion on the conscientious ground that they would then be serving for the emoluments and honors of office, while the charge would be groundless if the salary remained at thirteen dollars a month! Such conduct as this, it seems, should be a sufficient refutation of the latter-day doctrine that greed is the only incentive to human exertion. There were representatives of Williams county in nearly every regiment organized in Northwestern Ohio, Southern Michigan and Northeastern Indiana, either by original enlistment, transfer or promotion; and wherever they were, and by whatever organization they were known, the famous Buckeyes always performed their duty, and reflected honor upon themselves and credit upon the noble State which they represented.

CHAPTER VII

THE LAST FORTY YEARS

ON January 31, 1862, a new weekly publication was launched at Bryan, entitled the Union Press, under the editorial management of S. L. Hunter, a son of William A. Hunter, of Williams county newspaper fame. It was a well-edited and nicely-printed sheet and continued to make its weekly visits for a period of six months, when William M. Starr having purchased the Williams County Leader, the two papers were consolidated and thereafter, appeared as one publication under the name of Press and Leader. In August, 1863, the latter part of the cognomen was dropped and the paper was issued as the Union Press. In August, 1865, Thomas Starr purchased a half interest and the paper was conducted by the partnership thus formed until June 1, 1867, when General Isaac R. Sherwood, having returned from the war, laden with honors and filled with enthusiasm, repurchased the establishment and assumed editorial control. In 1868 General Sherwood, having received the nomination for secretary of state on the Republican ticket, resigned the editorial management into the hands of Robert N. Traver, though the former continued as publisher. In the issue of August 26, 1869, General Sherwood announced the sale of the Union Press to Gen. C. P. Hayes, and in the issue of October 28, following, the name was changed to the Bryan Press, which has since been the title of the publication, and at the same time the dimensions of the sheet was considerably enlarged. On July 2, 1874, General Hayes sold the Press to D. B. Ainger, and the latter's salutatory appeared in the issue of that date. General Hayes removed to Illinois, purchased a newspaper establishment there, and in less than two years after he settled in that state he was elected to Congress and served two terms. Mr. Ainger continued in charge of the paper until November 15, 1877, when he sold to Bowersox & Gillis—Charles A. Bowersox, editor, and Simeon Gillis, business manager. This firm continued until November 28, 1878, when the property passed into the hands of Gillis & Ogle. In January, 1884, Mr. Gillis became sole proprietor and continued the publication until June, 1889, when he sold the Press to J. Herbert Letcher and Carleton S. Roe. On March 1, 1896, Mr. Letcher retired from the firm, since which time Mr. Roe has conducted the paper alone, and we may properly add, with marked ability and success.

It will have been noticed, in what has been said concerning General Sherwood and General Hayes (former editors of the Press) that the public careers of those gentlemen seemed to be singularly fortunate.

Scarcely less so was that of Mr. Ainger. After his sale of the Press he immediately crossed the border and purchased a Republican paper at Charlotte, Mich. A year later he was appointed to the responsible and lucrative position of postmaster at Washington City, which office he filled for a period of a little more than four years. He afterwards became quite prominent in Michigan political affairs.

No effort was made to establish a Democratic paper in Williams county, after those recounted in a previous chapter, until April 30, 1863, when Robert N. Patterson launched the Weekly Bryan Democrat. Mr. Patterson was a native of Delaware, O., where his birth occurred January 19, 1831. He lived at home until the age of seventeen, when he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the Buckeye Eagle at Marion, Ohio. He worked on different papers in Ohio until 1863, and then came to Bryan and established the paper named above, of which he continued publisher and proprietor until September, 1900. He then sold the property to Reuben L. Starr, who in a few months transferred it to "The Democrat Publishing Co." Under the management of Mr. Patterson the Democrat flourished, and it has not lost any of its popularity since passing into other hands. For the past forty years Williams county has been very creditably represented by newspapers, reflecting of course differing political views, but at the same time registering the story of the county's progress and prosperity. We are largely indebted to the files of these weekly publications for a great deal of the history contained in this chapter.

In February, 1864, the Stevens' Exchange Bank complied with the new law regulating national banks, and became the present First National Bank of Bryan.

The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic in the county was organized at Bryan in December, 1866. Gen. William Stough was the first district commander; Capt. L. E. Brewster, district assistant adjutant general and secretary; Sydney M. Gleason, assistant quartermaster of the district.

On the 14th of September, 1867, occurred the first match game of base ball in Bryan, and probably in Williams county. There appeared to be a great interest in the national game that year, as the people were being taught the distinction between it and "town ball" or "two old cat."

It was in the autumn of 1867 that Weston, the great pedestrian, accomplished the remarkable feat of walking from Portland, Maine, to Chicago, over the post road—a distance of 1,228 miles—in twenty-six days. His route lay through Williams county, and great interest was manifested by the citizens thereof in the walker's contest with distance and time. He passed through Bryan on Saturday afternoon, November 23, but by ten o'clock a. m. the streets were well filled with people. Livery teams and private carriages were brought into requisition, and hosts of people started out on the Pulaski road, many going all the way to Stryker. At 11:30 Weston left the latter place and arrived at Bryan at 1:42—making the distance, nine and one-half miles, in two hours and twelve minutes. He made the last four miles in just forty-eight minutes or at the rate of five miles an hour. After remaining one hour at Burke's hotel, in Bryan, he again took up the line of march, intending to dine at Edgerton and sup at Waterloo, Indiana.

The old log jail, located on the present site of Long's drug store, had by this time (1867) become completely out of date and insecure, so far as confining prisoners was concerned. Several escapes, made by reckless evil-doers, caused an out-spoken demand for a better bastile, and in February, 1869, the present commodious structure, at the corner of Beach and Bryan streets, was completed under the personal supervision of A. W. Boynton. Among the last of the criminals to be incarcerated in the old jail was the notorious "Sile" Doty, who was arrested at Burke's hotel in Bryan for stealing a horse in Branch county, Michigan, and was taken to Coldwater the following day. In mentioning the demolition of the old jail the Democrat humorously stated that "Tyler's ghost flitted to other quarters last Saturday night at low twelve."

The census report showed that in 1870 the population of Williams county was 19,485 native and 1,506 foreign-born citizens—total, 20,991. The increase during the previous decade had been 4,448.

The political campaign of 1872, Grant and Greeley being the contestants, aroused much political enthusiasm, features of which were the tannery habiliments, worn by the followers of one candidate, and the conspicuous white hats representing loyalty to the other.

A serious epidemic, known as the "epizootic," crippled all industries requiring the use of horses during the later part of 1872, and left horse-owners with diseased and imperfect animals for a number of years afterward. The plague was universal throughout the country.

In 1873 Williams county sent the late Albert M. Pratt as a represetive to the State constitutional convention. Mr. Pratt was born in Berkshire county, Mass., December 26, 1825, and was a direct descendant of the Puritans. He was reared on his father's farm in his native county, and in 1846 entered Williams college, from which he graduated in 1850. In December of the latter year he came to Ravenna, Ohio, began the study of law there, and was admitted to the bar in Medina in 1853. In the autumn of that year he came to Bryan—then a town of less than five hundred inhabitants—and began the practice of his profession, in which he met with gratifying success. Mr. Pratt was originally a Democrat in politics, but became a Republican during the war. In addition to the position of trust named above he officiated as mayor of Bryan. He died October 13, 1889.

The Grange movement took shape in this county in 1874, and organizations came into existence all over the county. Some of these are still in existence, though most have been abandoned. The active movers during the early agitation were Messrs. J. P. Marsh of Jefferson township; P. S. Garlow of Pulaski, Thomas Hodson of Madison. With these three were associated other local workers in various townships, among them being the following: S. B. McKelvey, Daniel Thorp, Henry Kimball, A. J. Alvord, T. W. Stocking and J. A. Bowser. These names will all be recognized as of men who were leaders in all movements looking to the betterment of conditions generally. Particularly is this true of Thomas Hodson, a statement that will be corroborated by the older residents of the county. Mr. Hodson was born in Navenby, Lincolnshire, England, April 28, 1814, and attended school there until twelve years of age, when he was put to work on a farm. In 1827 he was brought to America by his parents, who located in Richland county, Ohio, and there Mr. Hodson grew to manhood. He removed to Williams county in April, 1854, having previously purchased over six hundred acres of land therein. For about one year he resided at Bridgewater Center and then located at Pioneer, where he spent the remainder of his life, giving his attention to agricultural pursuits and also practicing law to some extent. He was independent in politics, voting for the men and measures he thought best, and did active work and made many speeches for the establishment of his views. He possessed one of the finest libraries in the county.

The year 1874 is remembered as the time of the "Women's Crusade." The movement developed in the month of February, and though perhaps but few, if any, saloon-keepers were driven out of business, yet the sentiment created, no doubt, had a salutary effect in curtailing lawlessness in the liquor traffic.

In 1873 the need of a building for the poor upon the farm in Jefferson township, purchased from John Hester in 1872, gained official action, and the county commissioners established a brick yard on the farm and let the contract for the erection of the buildings. Work was commenced in earnest the same year, and in December, 1874, the new quarters were occupied by the county's wards, the institution taking the name of "Williams County Infirmary." The buildings are elaborate and expensive, covering nearly an acre of land. The infirmary, proper, is a three-story brick structure, conveniently arranged for heating with the least possible danger of fire. An insane ward is also provided for the care of patients designated as "harmless and incurable." A district school, near by, affords the means to properly rear and train the unfortunate children who are taken in charge at the infirmary. The farm contains two hundred and eighty acres, and produces surplus products not consumed in the institution, to the value of about one thousand dollars annually. The average cost of maintenance, including outside relief, is about ten thousand dollars annually. The infirmary directors have supreme control and employ, subordinate to their direction, a superintendent and matron, who attend to the details of the institution. Inmates who are able to work are employed on the farm, or in caring for stock and "choring" on the premises. Good, wholesome and substantial food is provided in abundance, as is also comfortable and seasonable clothing, and volunteer ministers from the various churches in the county supply the spiritual needs. At the time of the semi-annual report in March, 1905, there were thirty-three inmates in the institution.

The first steam fire engine in the county reached Bryan in 1874, and was considered a feature of sufficient interest to appear as an exhibit at the county fair. It was a Paterson engine, and with a well organized hook and ladder outfit, Bryan's fire protection seemed impregnable.

In August, 1875, a newspaper was established at Edgerton, called the Edgerton Weekly, by H. A. Granberry and J. R. Fusselman. The following summer Granberry assumed entire control, and ran the journal till 1877, when he sold out to Sardis R. Williams of Bryan, who afterwards located in Indiana, where he died in 1887. Mr. Williams changed the name to Edgerton Herald, ran the paper nearly a year and then turned it over to its former owner, Mr. Granberry, who suspended publication in the summer of 1882. The journal was independent in politics. Mr. Granberry was a native of New York, where he was born June 21, 1858. He came to Edgerton in 1874, where he attended school two years, and while doing so launched the first issue of his paper.

A new weekly paper was established at Bryan in 1876. The Fountain City Argus, Shouf & Williams, editors, issued No. 1 of Volume I on May 25th. On April 26, 1877, the name of Van B. Shouf appeared alone as editor and publisher; on June 7, following, Shouf & Plummer, and in August, 1879, Van Shouf again appeared alone. The Argus was radically Democratic in politics, but directly after the October election of 1879 it closed its newspaper life and the material was disposed of to different parties at private sale. It was generally understood, although his name did not appear, that Judge M. R. Willett was the managing editor throughout the term of the existence of the Argus. As a partisan Democratic journal it achieved extended notoriety.

The Bryan Light Guards were organized in June, 1877, and on July 6 was mustered into the State service, becoming Company E of the Sixteenth Ohio National Guard, with J. O. Foot, captain; C. F. Donze, first lieutenant; A. B. Ackerman, second lieutenant. The sergeants were J. R. McNary, John S. Williams, William Harding, John Evans and Fred Nunn. Lieutenant Ackerman was made quartermaster of the Sixteenth regiment. This company has seen active service under various calls of the State, in quieting riots, controlling strikers, guarding property, etc. It was on active duty during the court house riot in Cincinnati in 1884, the miners' riots in southeastern Ohio in June, 1894, and was among Ohio's soldiers at the opening of the Louisiana Purchase exposition of 1904. Further history of this company is presented in connection with its services in the Spanish war. At the time of its organization a large number of the members of the company were ex-soldiers of the Civil war, and for several years the commanding officers were of that class. William Harding, who served for some time as captain and commanded the company during its first active service during the Cincinnati riot, was a private in Company C, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry. For years he was engaged in business in Bryan, but afterwards removed to Defiance, where he now resides.

The Unity Eagle was the title of an eight-page weekly paper which was started at West Unity by the Grisier Brothers in the spring of

1878. J. W. Grisier was the editor and he wielded the quill for several years. In 1888, E. T. Runnion purchased the newspaper and conducted it for a couple of years and then sold to Olin Kenyon, who changed the name to Reporter, and has successfully managed it since.

On June 28, 1879, the first number of the Border Alliance, a six-column folio newspaper, made its appearance at Pioneer; editor, C. J. DeWitt; publishers, the Alliance Printing Company. In four weeks the paper was enlarged to a seven-column folio and its name then became the Pioneer Alliance; but two years later the name was changed to simply the Alliance. It was then enlarged, July 8, 1882, to a six column quarto and its name changed to the Tri-State Alliance. Mr. DeWitt conducted the paper until a few years ago when he sold it to other parties; and although changes have since been made in its management, it still continues as a weekly representative of the thriving town in which it is published. C. J. DeWitt, the founder and first editor of the Alliance, is a native of Steuben county, New York, and came to Medina county, Ohio, with his parents in 1847. He attended Hillsdale college, Michigan, in 1858, 1859 and 1860, taught school and was finally ordained as a Baptist minister. He served in the One Hundred and Forty-second Ohio National Guard during the Civil war, after which he followed mercantile pursuits in the west for a number of years. After disposing of the Alliance at Pioneer he went South and engaged in the ministry there.

John Kaufman, one of the two first settlers in Bryan, died on November 3, 1879. For years he was a familiar and interesting personage in Williams county. He was born at or near Little York, Pa., on Christmas day, 1793, and but little is known of his early life. When Baltimore was menaced by the British troops, in 1814, he was in that city and promptly enlisted in the Thirty-ninth regiment of Maryland militia, and served with it through the battle of Long Point and the defense of Baltimore. He came to Williams county before the county seat was established at Bryan and in several ways contributed to the making of the county's history. He was employed to make the brick for the old court house, and after the completion of the building he was appointed door-keeper to the court room, a position he continuously held for thirty-five years. As a tribute to his memory, the court house and several county offices were appropriately draped with mourning badges on the day of his funeral.

In 1879 the telephone made its first appearance in Williams county. It was looked upon with the same curiosity which met the introduction of electric railways, in more recent years. A telephone exchange was established at Bryan in 1882, by which time the new invention had been greatly improved and popularized.

Volume I, No. 1, of the Buckeye Vidette made its appearance at Bryan, April 22, 1880—J. W. Northrop, editor, and J. R. Douglas, assistant. The Vidette was an organ of the Greenback party, and early in 1882 the material and publication were transferred from Bryan to Columbus. Later it was removed to Salem, Columbiana county.

A small paper, called the Christian Messenger, was issued for about four months, at Pioneer, in 1880—first appearing as a monthly, then as a semi-monthly, and finally as a weekly. Its aim was to reform the questions of politics and intemperance and to advocate strenuous moral measures. Its editor was Rev. J. L. Rushbridge.

The Detroit division of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific railway was built through Williams county in 1880. It at once opened a market for the surplus farm and garden productions of the rich agricultural region of which Montpelier is the center, and by increasing the value of such products by establishing a new market, it conferred substantial benefits upon the farmer, the manufacturer and the merchant. With this new impetus Montpelier grew with marvelous strides and is now the most important town on the lines of the Wabash between Detroit and Chicago, or Toledo and Fort Wayne.

With a keen foresight of the advantages that would be afforded Montpelier by the opening of the Wabash railroad, on September 18, 1880, Messrs. Ford & Smalley commenced the publication of the Montpelier Enterprise—F. M. Ford, editor, and J. R. Smalley, publisher. In the fall of 1882 Mr. Smalley retired from the publication and Mr. Ford conducted it alone until November, 1884, when he sold the paper to George Strayer. Until this time the Enterprise had been independent, ignoring politics, but Mr. Strayer hoisted the flag of Republicanism and continued to issue it as an advocate of that party until January, 1889, when Ford & Willett became the owners, and it again assumed an independent position. In 1903, Mr. Willett severed his connection with the paper, and F. M. Ford, the founder and first editor, successfully pilots the Enterprise in its course of usefulness to Montpelier and Williams county. James R. Smalley, who was associated with Mr. Ford in starting the Enterprise, is now a prosperous manufacturer at Sandusky, Ohio.

The results of the census of 1880 showed a total population for Williams county of 23,821, a gain over 1870 of 2,830.

On February 8, 1881, at Columbus, O., occurred the death of Dr. William Trevitt, who was well known to all the early citizens of Williams county, having been one of the original proprietors of Bryan, and largely instrumental in securing the location of the county seat there. He was twice elected secretary of state of Ohio, and was consul to Valparaiso under Pierce and Buchanan.

The news of the shooting of President Garfield on July 2, 1881, created tremendous excitement. After his long period of suffering, and final death, the citizens of Bryan showed their grief and sympathy by holding a meeting of all creeds at the Armory, where the pastors of the various churches and others conducted a fitting memorial service in the presence of a vast throng of sorrowing people. All public offices and business houses were closed and the court house bell tolled from two to four o'clock.

In November, 1882, the Herald having suspended publication, J. R. Smalley commenced the publication of the Observer at Edgerton. Mr. Smalley was quite successful in his undertaking and after conducting the paper a few years sold it to Anson Schaeffer, who changed the name to Edgerton Earth. There have been several changes in the ownership of the Earth since then, but it has continued to make regular weekly visits. The present proprietor is C. E. Miller.

On March 22, 1883, occurred the death of Dr. Thomas Kent, a prominent resident of Williams county, and rendered more so in a historical sense in that he established the first drug store in the county and also assisted in starting the first newspaper, the Northwestern.

The presidential campaign of 1884 is memorable as having been more exciting in Williams county than any preceding one. Cleveland and Blaine had the magnetism to solidify the ranks of their respective followers and party lines were closely drawn. The young men of both parties organized marching clubs and wore uniforms or hats designating their party affiliations. The "Cleveland and Hendricks Clubs" were the organizations of the Democrats, organized in the several towns of the county and composed of scores of stanch adherents to the principles advocated by "the man from Buffalo." The different clubs united at various meetings during the campaign and kept the Cleveland enthusiasm at white heat. On October 7, a monster meeting was held at Montpelier, addressed by Hon. W. H. Springer of Illinois, and others. The enthusiasm was tremendous and the "white hat brigade" was in its glory. The Republican clubs were equally zealous and active; and though they were denied the privilege of seeing their chieftain elected to the high office which he sought, many of his followers had the pleasure of seeing and hearing him during the campaign. Although Blaine did not come to Bryan in his speech-making tour, he visited several neighboring points.

The People's Advocate was the title of a newspaper, the first number of which was issued at Montpelier in June, 1885. Its editor was F. M. Ford, who continued its publication until January, 1887, when he disposed of the material and good will to W. Otis Willett. Mr. Willett changed the name of the paper to Montpelier Democrat, and in August, 1887, disposed of a half interest to William H. Shinn, who edited the Democrat until January, 1889, when it was merged into the Enterprise.

A temperance paper was started in Bryan in October, 1886, with Maumee Valley Prohibitionist as its name. It was a neatly printed six-column quarto and was edited by W. J. Sherwood. In June, 1889, the plant was moved to Toledo, where the publication was continued.

In the latter part of 1886, citizens of Bryan, backed by reasonable public confidence in the enterprise, sank a gas well in the southeast part of town and were rewarded by striking what appeared to be an exhaustless supply of oil. Other wells were immediately started at Bryan, Edgerton and Stryker, at each of which places a supply of gas was obtained, and for a time that substance was extensively used as fuel in the towns named. But the supply became exhausted in a comparatively short time; and the projecting tubes of the wells and occasional "salubrious" odors from their vicinity are about the only monuments to the memory of the well-meant efforts.

Several north and south railway lines through Williams county were long contemplated and discussed, but the one which was finally constructed in 1887 was the one originally known as the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw, and later as the Cincinnati Northern. This road, as originally projected, in 1852-3, was to pass, after leaving Cincinnati and Hamilton county, through all the county seats of the western range of counties in Ohio, until it struck the Michigan line on the north—the route embracing the several seats of justice of Hamilton, Preble, Butler, Darke, Mercer, Van Wert, Paulding, Defiance and Williams. After the expenditure of a large amount in grading and making the road bed ready for the ties, thousands of which were made and delivered on the line, where they rotted on the ground, the panic of 1857 struck the enterprise and placed a rough lock upon its further progress. And in this comatose state the project remained until March 7, 1881, when some energetic men revived it, and after six years more of doubt and uncertainty the road was completed from Cincinnati to Jackson, Michigan. In Williams county it passes through Bryan, West Unity and Alvordton, crossing an east and west road at each of these places, and withal it is a source of convenience and profit.

Over forty years had elapsed since the building of the court house at Bryan, when, in 1888, a movement was started looking to its repair and enlargement. For years it had been apparent that a court house, built to satisfy the demands of pioneer days, was decidedly inadequate to the needs of the county after forty years of progress and increase of both wealth and population. But it was also well understood that any movement toward the erection of a new building would open the question of a removal of the county seat and engender a strife between the people of different sections of the county that would be bitter in its intensity and long-standing in its results. After the building of the Wabash railroad through Montpelier, that town had increased rapidly in population, and being situated in close proximity to the geographical center of the county, her citizens fondly hoped and expected that when a new court house was erected it would be in their midst. It did not require the gifts of a prophet to foresee the inevitable struggle, and while the adherents of either Bryan or Montpelier disclaimed any such incentive for their actions, yet the election returns for several years prior to 1888 showed that each was getting ready for the fray. In 1886 the flattering majority given in Pulaski township for a candidate for commissioner, who was supposed to be favorable to Bryan, was answered a year later, in the northern part of the county, by the defeat of a candidate for representative for no other reason than that he resided in a rival town. These events, coupled with the urgent need of a safer and more commodious building, brought the court house question to the front as a burning issue in the early part of 1888, and for some time such minor questions as the election of a president, etc., received little consideration at the hands of Williams county citizens. On February 10, 1888, a bill was introduced in the Ohio State senate authorizing and requiring the county commissioners of Williams county to borrow fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of repairing the old court house or building a new one at Bryan. The citizens of Montpelier made strenuous efforts to defeat the bill, but their efforts availed them nothing and it became a law on March 10, following. The commissioners decided to erect a new building and active operations to that end were promptly inaugurated. The contract to tear down the old court house was let to Samuel Priest and the old college building on North Lynn street was leased for county purposes until the new structure could be completed. In the meantime, citizens of Montpelier had not given up the contest. They made application for a writ of injunction to restrain the county commissioners from letting the contract to build the new court house. A temporary injunction was granted, but upon a hearing, held before Judge Sutphen at Bryan on August 14, it was dissolved and two days later the contract was let to Malone Brothers & Earhart of Toledo, the material to be Berea stone and the contract price of the building, $107,450. An appeal was taken from Judge Sutphen's decision to the Circuit court, but that tribunal dismissed the motion and sustained Judge Sutphen's decision. The first stone in the foundation of the new court house was put in position on October 1, and the first brick in the walls was laid October 22, 1888. As the amount of the first appropriation ($50,000) was less than half of the contract price of the new building, the legislature, at its session in 1889, authorized the commissioners to issue additional bonds, not exceeding sixty thousand dollars in amount. The Williams County Pioneers' Association laid the corner stone of the new court house on Tuesday, April 30, 1889, that day being chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the inauguration of the first president of the United States. A large crowd of people gathered to witness the interesting and impressive ceremony. Hon. Charles A. Bowersox delivered the address; and there was deposited in the box, a history of the location of the county seat at Bryan and building of the old court house, the act directing the commissioners to build the new court house, records of all proceedings connected therewith, names of county officers, names of the officers and members of the Pioneers' Association, a copy of each newspaper then published in the county, and a few voluntary contributions. Work upon the structure proceeded rapidly, and in July, 1891, it was accepted by the commissioners and occupied by the county officials. The cost of the building, however, far exceeded early expectations, the total amount expended for building and furnishing reaching the sum of one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars, in round numbers.

The Bryan electric light company was formed, in 1889, and the arc light system was put in operation.

The Montpelier Republican was the title of a paper started at Montpelier in 1889. C. E. F. Miller was its editor and publisher, but its existence was of short duration, and after a few months it suspended publication. A few weeks after its demise, Messrs. George Strayer and David Stauffer launched the Montpelier Leader, also a Republican paper. They continued its publication until the building of the Montpelier-Chicago branch of the Wabash railroad brought into existence the new town of Ashley, Indiana, and then Mr. Strayer removed the plant to the latter place and commenced the publication of a paper there. After a lapse of several months Theo. Donellen, of California, located at Montpelier and resumed the publication of the Leader. Its career for several years following was decidedly checkered, several parties having charge of it at different times, until 1899, when it passed into the hands of Clyde E. Thomas, who has guided its course ever since. Under Mr. Thomas' management the Leader has attained a position in the front rank among Williams county newspapers.

The "grippe" became epidemic in Williams county, in 1890, when there were hundreds of cases, many of which were fatal.

The United States census of 1890 showed a population in the county of 24,897, a gain in the preceding decade of 1,076.

Since the trials of Tyler and Heckerthorn for the murder of the little Schamp boy, in 1847, the judicial annals of Williams county have been singularly free of trials and convictions on the charge of murder. On the night of May 4, 1892, however, a blot was put upon the record by the killing of Arthur Brown within but little more than a square of the court house, in the village of Bryan. The motive for the atrocious crime is supposed to have been robbery and the details of the affair were horrifying in the extreme. George Burchell, Michael Burchell, Walter Plummer and William Elkins were charged with the commission of the crime, and in turn were tried, found guilty and sentenced to the Ohio penitentiary for life. Michael Burchell died in prison, Elkins and George Burchell were pardoned, and Plummer is still confined within the gloomy walls.

The Wabash extension—Montpelier to Chicago—was opened on May 14, 1893, when several additional passenger trains were put on to accommodate the World's Fair demands.

The year 1894 was characterized by the great labor strikes all over the country and the exceptionally "hard times" incident to and following a world-wide monetary stringency. Coxey and his army of followers marched through the land enroute to Washington, where he hoped that a "petition in boots" would stimulate favorable consideration of relief measures by the congressional bodies. But Coxey's interest in the "commonweal" brought an entirely different result—he was arrested for "walking on the park grass" in Washington. A few of his followers passed through Williams county, and "Weary" Iler, the quartermaster of the "On to Washington" army, was a former resident of Bryan.

A cyclone, terrible in its effect upon property and human life, passed over the northern part of Williams county, on May 17, 1894. The section devastated was from fifty to one hundred yards wide and extended from the St. Joseph river, about three miles northeast of Montpelier, to a half mile south of Kunkle—a distance of five miles. Buildings were lifted as though they were so many shingles and scattered over the country, and four persons were killed, as many more being seriously injured.

In the spring of 1898 came the declaration of war between the United States and Spain, and the equipment of an army and navy to combat the haughty Spaniard. In the settlement of this trouble, Williams county responded with old-time vigor and enthusiasm. The noble sons of patriotic sires promptly offered their services in the cause of liberty and performed their duty with commendable devotion. The response was so universal over the land that many were disappointed in not reaching the scene of action; but they had shown their devotion to country and sympathy with the down-trodden and oppressed. The Williams county boys, mostly members of Company E of the Sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, were off to the rendezvous at the earliest opportunity. They returned after a few months of service, but were dissatisfied that they could not have done more. A grand reception was accorded to the company on its return, and thus its members resumed the thread of peaceful life. A few Williams county men reached the scene of action in the Philippines, where they rendered valiant service and proved their worthiness on every field. The officers of Company E of the Sixth Ohio volunteer infantry were: Captain, Charles E. Langel; first lieutenant, Samuel Diehl; second lieutenant, S. C. Fisk. Eugene E. Newman of Bryan was the regimental quartermaster. Charles J. Shumaker, Richard F. Bolius, Charles Sullinger and ——— Waldner, were four Williams county boys who contracted disease in the service and died.

The Klondike excitement was somewhat abated during the Spanish troubles, and many young men who would otherwise have gone to the new territory of the far northwest were diverted from that purpose to enter the army. But Williams county had its representatives in the Alaskan gold fields, several young men having tried their fortunes and their endurance with results not entirely satisfactory.

Absorbing interest was manifested in the national campaign of 1900, as it had been on a similar occurrence in 1896. In both cases a distinguished citizen of the state led the successful party. In Williams county the two campaigns were fought with remarkable vigor by the adherents of each party creed.

The United States census of 1900 showed the population of the county to be 24,953. By townships the population was as follows: Brady, 1,875; Bridgewater, 1,314; Center, 1,450; Florence, 2,483; Jefferson, 1,213; Madison, 1,804; Millcreek, 1,393; Northwest, 1,434; Pulaski, 4,549; St. Joseph, 2,133; Springfield, 2,341; Superior, 2,964. These figures include the following villages in various townships: West Unity, 897; Blakeslee, 239; Edon, 740; Pioneer, 603; Alvordton, 482; Bryan, 3,131; Edgerton, 1,043; Stryker, 1,206; Montpelier, 1,869.

Beginning as far back as the 70's, Northwestern Ohio, and especially Williams county, was for many years the scene of disastrous conflagrations, frequent in occurrence and plainly incendiary in character. Dwelling houses, barns, and business houses with their stocks of merchandise, were in turn victims of the fire fiend, until every citizen felt insecure and insurance companies preferred other localities in which to transact business. The state fire marshal and his deputies were tireless in their efforts to find the guilty parties, but year after year passed by with small prospect of success. In May, 1903, however, the Williams county grand jury was furnished with sufficient evidence to cause them to return indictments against a number of men, charged with burning different buildings; and so thorough had been the work of the officers, and so complete the information secured, that out of eighteen who were arraigned and charged with such crime, sixteen plead guilty and the remaining two were easily convicted upon trial. It is too early as yet to write the history of these transactions, for it is understood that there are other developments to follow. However this may be, it is hoped that a quietus has been put upon the organized band who so long plied their nefarious vocation in this locality.

The Twentieth century has started with fine prospects for Williams county in a material sense. In 1901 the Wabash railroad built a branch from Montpelier to Toledo; in 1903 an electric railway from the latter place was built as far west as Pioneer, touching Alvordton in its course, and, in 1905, Bryan and Stryker were given the advantages of an electric road. Other highways of travel and commerce are promised, and with her fertile fields, thriving towns and excellent people, Williams takes a high rank among her sister counties of the Buckeye State.

CHAPTER VIII

POLITICS AND OFFICIAL HONORS

WILLIAMS county was organized the same year (1824) that the remarkable presidential contest occurred between Jackson, Adams, Clay and Crawford. The administration of Mr. Monroe had been so pacific and conciliatory in its measures that the party lines previously existing had become almost obliterated, and it appeared to be conceded that his policy had established "an era of good feeling." Means of communication with the outer world, inhabited by civilized people, were then so limited, and newspapers and documents so scarce and difficult to obtain that the political excitement among the new settlers was not sufficient to disturb neighborhood tranquility. But when the election, under the forms of the Constitution, was transferred to the house of representatives, after the meeting of congress on the first Monday in December, 1824, and when it became known that, by the decision of the house, the popular voice had been disregarded by the choice of John Quincy Adams, and intelligence of the result finally penetrated the fastnesses of the dwellers in the Northwestern Ohio wilderness, it aroused a feeling that had a tendency to form political classification. But sharp party lines were not drawn for many years, and even when they were they did not embrace candidates for the popular suffrage of a lesser grade than Federal and State officers, rarely extending to candidates for merely local positions. In process of time, however, political organizations were formed upon a broader basis, and they contested for possession of the smaller official plums, making the organization of political parties, although occasionally broken, generally more compact.

Until 1834 the party adverse to the Democratic organization had been known as National Republicans and Anti-Masons, but in that year all that were opposed to the Democracy formed a coalition and changed their name to Whig, and under this banner fought their battles until 1854, when a fusion between the Free-Soilers and Know-Northings was made, and both elements combined under the name of Republican. There existed, however, for many years in Williams county, a small, but brave and earnest body of Abolitionists, who were denounced and persecuted by both Democrats and Whigs, who vied with each other in making assaults upon "the incendiary Abolitionist." But it was only upon this common ground that the two powerful parties would make common warfare. A woman of high character and intelligence, Miss Abbey Kelley, who had been invited by the little band of Abolitionists in the town and county to address a public meeting at Bryan, was, after her lecture, and while on her way from the place of meeting to the house of a friend where she was a guest, the object of gross personal insult, a cowardly mob following her, making use of coarse language and even casting eggs at her person.

The above statements were written by the late Horace S. Knapp, and published in Goodspeed's history of Williams county. No doubt there are those yet living in the county who remember the incident referred to; and the writer can not refrain from calling the reader's attention to the great change in sentiment in so short a time. The date of the happening was about 1850, not during the "Dark Ages;" the place was Bryan, Ohio, and not Charleston, South Carolina. The perpetrators of the outrage called themselves "conservative" men, who deemed it their duty to thus emphasize their dislike of the fanatics who were advocating the abolition of slavery. The "conservative" men of that day decried such agitation, because, they said, "it disturbed business interests." They were the psychological ancestors of those vainglorious men of today, who oppose every measure of reform that appears abstruse to their benighted reasoning powers. Dear "conservative" reader: Was the Emancipation Proclamation the culminating achievement of this Christian civilization, and were the enemies of human progress all slain when the Demon of Slavery perished? If not, then it is your duty to study proposed reform measures; and in the conflict of opinion your weapons should be reason and logic, not sneers and vituperation.

But this is a digression, and we will return to the proper subject. At the October election of 1824—the first one held after the organization of Williams county—Allen Trimble received sixty-one votes for governor and Jeremiah Morrow received six votes. It will be observed that the vote in the county was very small, and in fact it remained so for several years thereafter. At the presidential election of 1836, Van Buren received 198 votes and Harrison 176. Four years later the same candidates were again in the field and Williams county voted as follows: Van Buren, 407; Harrison, 396. Mr. Birney, the Abolition candidate, received no votes in the county. The vote for governor in 1840 exhibits quite as clearly the relative strength of the Whig and Democratic parties in Williams county. Wilson Shannon was the Democratic candidate and received 382 votes, while Thomas Corwin, the Whig candidate, received 356.

In 1844, at the state election in October and the presidential election immediately following, the Abolitionists had no candidates and the Free-Soil party was not then in existence. At the October election, David Tod, the Democratic candidate for governor, received 621 votes, and Mordecai Bartley, the Whig candidate, received 488. For president, Polk, 673; Clay, 583.

At the October election of 1848, John B. Weller, Democratic candidate for governor, received 484 votes, and Seabury Ford, the Whig candidate, received 269. In 1845 Defiance county had been formed, taking away eight of the most populous townships of the county, and this will account for the falling off in the total vote. In the presidential contest of the same year, a convention of Free-Soilers, held at Buffalo, N. Y., placed in nomination a candidate for the presidency and adopted a chart of principles satisfactory to nearly all the Abolitionists and to many others of the old parties. In Williams county the vote stood: Lewis Cass (Dem.), 510 votes; Zachary Taylor (Whig), 328; Martin Van Buren (Free-Soil), 154. Majority for Cass over Taylor, 182.

1850—At the October election of 1850, held on the 8th day of that month, for governor, Reuben Wood (Dem.) received in Williams county 601 votes, and his Whig opponent, William Johnston, 402 votes.

1852—Franklin Pierce (Dem.), 832 votes; Winfield Scott (Whig), 546; John P. Hale (Free-Soil and Abolition), 160. Majority for Pierce over Scott, 286. Between this and the quadrennial election following the very name and machinery of the Whig party had passed out of existence.

1855—At this October election in Williams county, for governor, Salmon P. Chase (Republican) received 890 votes, William Medill (Democrat), 861 votes, and Allen Trimble (American), 17 votes. The majority of the Republican ticket was elected, although the plurality for Mr. Chase was the largest. This was the first instance in the political history of Williams county where the regular nominees of the Democratic party were entirely overthrown in a strictly party contest.

1856—James Buchanan (Dem.), 1,022 votes; John C. Fremont (Rep.), 1,327; Millard Fillmore (American), 49. Majority for Fremont over Buchanan, 305. Williams county, it will be observed, gave a heavy vote for the Republican ticket, increasing its vote of a year before by about fifty per cent, and its majority over the combined vote of its opponents was 256.

1860—This contest terminated the "irrepressible conflict" between the Free and Slave States, as Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward had declared several years previously that it was destined to become, and, so far as law could make it so, placed the former master and slave upon terms of civil equality. Williams county very largely increased her Republican majority, giving to Lincoln (Rep.) a vote of 1,713, to Douglas (Dem.) a vote of 1,180, and to Bell (American), 29 votes, making the majority for Lincoln over the combined vote of his competitors, 504.

1863—There probably never occurred an election in Ohio that produced a higher degree of excitement within the state, or a more profound interest abroad than the memorable campaign of 1863. Since the opening of the war, in 1861, there had occurred no conflict that would bear comparison in the intensity of feeling it produced, to this one. After the close of the polls, on October 13, results were rapidly received and transmitted, and the governor-elect being then a resident of Cleveland, was, near 12 o'clock at night, in possession of sufficient returns to authorize him to transmit a dispatch to Edwin M. Stanton, then secretary of war, that the entire Republican state ticket in Ohio had been elected by a majority of about one hundred thousand. The official vote in Williams county stood: Brough, 1,955, and Vallandigham, 1,318. Of the Williams county soldiers in the army 362 voted. and of these all cast their votes for the Republican candidates, with the exception of two, who voted for Vallandigham; and three cast their votes for each of the others upon the Democratic state, legislative and county tickets.

1864—Lincoln's (Rep.) vote, 2,197; McClellan's (Dem.), 1,425; Lincoln's vote very closely approximating two-thirds of the total number cast.

1868—Ulysses S. Grant (Rep.), 2,280 votes, and Horatio Seymour (Dem.), 1,814; resulting in a majority for Grant of 466.

1872—At the October election, this year, the Republican majority was 367; but at the November election, following, Grant received a majority of 805 votes over Greeley, thus proving conclusively that the latter was not very popular with Williams county Democrats. Indeed his candidacy seems to have affected the October election, for in 1871 the Republicans had but 199 majority in the county, and in October, 1872, they had 367.

1876—Hayes (Rep.), 2,701; Tilden (Dem.), 2,546.

1880—Garfield (Rep.), 2,881; Hancock (Dem.), 2,591.

1884—Blaine (Rep.), 2,907; Cleveland (Dem.), 2,897.

1888—Harrison (Rep.), 3,072; Cleveland (Dem.), 2,976.

1892—Harrison (Rep.), 2,723; Cleveland (Dem.), 2,554.

1896—Bryan (Dem.), 3,515; McKinley (Rep.), 3,191.

1900—McKinley (Rep.), 3,416; Bryan, (Dem.), 3,049.

1904—Roosevelt (Rep.), 3,827; Parker (Dem.), 2,565. These figures represent the largest vote and majority ever given to a political party in Williams county. But, though there can be no doubt that the Republicans have a clear majority in the county, the presidential election of 1904 is not a fair criterion by which to judge its size. It is but stating a truth in history to say that Mr. Parker was not a popular candidate with the "rank and file" of the Democratic party, and especially was this true after he exhibited his weak conception of the coinage question. With such an independent character as Mr. Roosevelt in the field, many Democrats considered it an opportune time to consign Mr. Parker, "irrevocably," to the shades of political oblivion.

But, notwithstanding the great majority for Roosevelt in 1904, at the State election of 1905 the vote for governor was as follows, according to unofficial returns: Pattison (Dem.), 3,114; Herrick (Rep.), 3,068; a Democratic majority of 46 votes.

It will be seen, in the statistics given, that since 1852 the Republican candidate in presidential years has carried the county, with only one exception—1896. In that campaign Mr. Bryan's wonderful personality, magnetic force and matchless oratory, contending for a platform of principles that was unequivocal in meaning and clear in expression, succeeded in arousing an interest in political affairs to an extent seldom if ever witnessed before. In Williams county every district school house became a political forum, and interest in everything else waned while the "Battle of the Standards" was in progress. The majority given to Mr. Bryan—three hundred and twenty-four—was considered the greatest victory, under the circumstances, that had ever been achieved in Williams county. In local and state affairs, however, an independent spirit has been manifested more or less ever since the close of the Civil war. The voters of the county have been generally given to "scratching" their tickets, and it has been difficult to estimate results, particularly as regards candidates for county offices, until the votes have been officially canvassed; and neither party has for any great length of time held all of the official positions. In 1878, the Democratic state ticket received a majority of eleven votes in the county and they were also successful in the state elections of 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1896, and again in 1905. With these exceptions, however, the Republican state ticket has carried the county at every election from and including 1855.

The first political meeting in the county, north of Fort Defiance, was held at Lafayette (Pulaski) in the presidential campaign of 1836. The speaker was Patrick G. Goode, who represented the district—which included nearly all the counties in northwestern Ohio—in the legislature of 1833-34. The first political convention, of which there is any account, was of the Democratic persuasion and was held at the house of Col. J. B. Kimmel, at Williams Centre, in the fall prior to the "two dollars a day and hard cider" year of 1840. Colonel Kimmel presided, and tradition says the proceedings were marked with the utmost harmony and good feeling. The harmony and good feeling, however, was not of a lasting nature, and did not prevail to any great extent a few years later.

The writer has attempted to perfect an official list of Williams county, including national, state and county officers, from the organization of the county to 1905, and also to include with the list biographical matter concerning some of the gentlemen who have borne the official honors. In some instances the favored ones have passed away, leaving neither "kith nor kin" to preserve their record, while in others, either from indisposition, churlishness, cupidity, ignorance or some other cause those who could have done so have manifested no disposition to furnish the required information. Notwithstanding these difficulties, considerable information is here presented concerning residents of Williams county who have held official honors. For court judges and officers, see chapter on Bench and Bar, and the biographical department of this work also contains additional information.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

From 1869 to 1873, Isaac R. Sherwood.

General Isaac R. Sherwood has been prominent as a lawyer, a soldier, a newspaper editor and a political leader during the last half century. He was for many years a resident of Williams county. He was born August 15, 1835, and attended the Hudson River institute, Clarnack, New York. He graduated from Antioch college, Ohio, and later from the Western Law school at Cleveland, and was admitted to the bar and became a practicing attorney. In 1857 he established the Williams County Gazette, a Republican paper, and in 1860 was elected probate judge of Williams county. At the beginning of the civil war, April 18, 1861, he enlisted as a private soldier in the Fourteenth Ohio volunteer infantry, and later resigned both the office of mayor of Bryan and the lucrative office of probate judge of Williams county to serve as a soldier boy. At the close of his first enlistment he was made a lieutenant in the One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio volunteer infantry, and was promoted through all the grades to colonel of the regiment, and was brevetted a brigadier general for gallant conduct at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. He participated in the first actual battle of the war, at Phillipi, and in the last one at Raleigh. He participated in more than thirty actions during his military career and was repeatedly complimented for his soldierly conduct. He was appointed commissioner for the Freedmen's Bureau of Florida in February, 1865, but resigned after filling the position for a few weeks. He was elected secretary of state, in 1868, as a Republican, over Thomas Hubbard, Democrat, by a vote of 267,066 to 249,682, and was re-elected in 1870 over William Heisley, Democrat, by a vote of 221,708 to 205,018. He was elected to the Forty-third congress, in 1872, from the Sixth district, Williams, Fulton, Henry, Wood, Lucas and Ottawa counties, and served but a single term. He them became an editor of prominence, and was editorially connected with a number of leading newspapers, among them the Toledo Commercial, the Toledo Journal, the Cleveland Leader and the Canton Democrat. In 1880 he severed his connection with the Republican party and by the Greenbackers was twice elected probate judge of Lucas county. He then affiliated with the Democratic party, and has in later years been one of the recognized and prominent leaders of that party in Ohio.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

From 1851 to 1855, Alfred P. Edgerton; 1873 to 1875, Isaac R Sherwood; 1887 to 1891, Melvin M. Boothman.

Alfred P. Edgerton never had a legal residence within the present limits of Williams county, but his career was so closely associated with its early affairs and he did so much in contributing to its material advancement, that its history would not be complete without a biographical mention of him. In 1837, when he located in old Williams county, Mr. Edgerton assumed the management of the American Land Company and the Hicks Land Company, with headquarters at Hicksville, and there conducted those interests with great success. Up to 1852, when the affairs of the two companies were practically wound up, he disposed of 140,000 acres of land to actual settlers. He replatted Hicksville, and added to its commercial and general interests, and was a man of the most liberal and progressive ideas. He was a state senator from 1845 to 1847. In 1850 he was elected to the Thirty-second congress from the Fifth district, embracing Defiance, Mercer, Van Wert, Paulding, Lucas, Henry, Putnam, Allen, Shelby, Williams and Hardin counties, and was elected to the Thirty-third, in 1852, from the same district. He was a Democratic leader both in the legislature and in congress. He was one of the Democratic opponents of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, in 1855, which re-opened the slavery question with renewed bitterness. President Cleveland appointed him as one of the civil service commissioners, and he discharged the duties of the office impartially, although he disagreed with the president's ideas. He removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1857, and, in 1862, became a resident of that state, still retaining many interests in Defiance county. He was born in Plattsburg, New York, in 1813, and died in 1898. He was a most liberal patron of education and was deeply interested in the common school system.

Melvin M. Boothman was the only native born citizen of Williams county who ever represented his district in congress. He was born in Jefferson township, this county, October 16, 1846. He was educated in the common schools and followed farming until 1864, when he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, "for three years or during the war." He served through the Atlanta campaign, and was wounded in the assault upon Jonesboro, and his left leg was necessarily amputated. He returned home and followed teaching as a means of securing a higher education. He was graduated from the law department of the Michigan university, in October, 1871, with the degree of L.L.B. He was elected treasurer of Williams county, in 1871, and re-elected in 1873, holding the office four years. He then engaged in the practice of law. In 1886 he was elected, as a Republican, to the Fiftieth congress from the Sixth district, Williams, Wood, Defiance, Henry, Paulding and Van Wert, and was re-elected from the same district, in 1888, to the Fifty-first. He made a good record in congress and afterward resumed the practice of law, in which he successfully engaged until his death, March 4, 1904.

STATE SENATORS.

From 1860 to 1862, Edward Foster; 1864 to 1868, Meredith R. Willett; 1874 to 1878, William Sheridan, Jr.; 1906, William M. Denman.

Edward Foster was born October 27, 1824, in Portage county, Ohio, and was of English descent. His youth and early manhood were passed in Portage, with the exception of the time spent at school. He acquired a thoroughly practical education, finishing at the Western Reserve college. In 1844 he began the study of law under the instruction of Judge Day, of Ravenna, afterward under Tilden & Ranney, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1846. In 1846 he came to Bryan, engaged actively in his profession, and occupied a leading position as a member of the bar of Williams county until the spring of 1867, when, because of ill health, he sold out his practice and retired to a less active life. He became prominent in county affairs immediately after his arrival; was president of the Bryan bank (now the Farmers' National bank) for two years, and filled several other responsible positions. Previous to the war he acted in harmony with the Democrats, and by them was elected to represent the counties of Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Mercer, Allen and Auglaize in the state senate. He served in the same session with General Garfield, Governor Cox, Judge Key and other men who rose to prominence. While in the senate, in 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon and Lincoln issued his call for troops. Mr. Foster then took an active part in the support of the administration and afterward affiliated with the Republicans. He died in 1885.

Meredith R. Willett was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, February 6, 1819. In 1834 he came with his parents to Richland county, Ohio, and after acquiring such education as the local schools afforded he entered the law office of Judge Hurd at Mount Vernon, and subsequently of Stewart & Newman at Mansfield. Hon. Sam. Kirkwood, since governor of Iowa, and Hon. Charles Irvine, were fellow students with him. After his admission to the bar he located at Mount Gilead, where he practiced in partnership with Maj. J. B. Stinchcomb until 1850, when he went overland to California. Returning a year later, he came to West Unity, Williams county, and engaged in school teaching. In 1853 he was elected justice of the peace, was soon afterward appointed postmaster, and at the October election was elected prosecuting attorney, and was re-elected in 1855. In 1857 he was elected probate judge of the county, which office he held until 1861. In 1863 he was nominated for state senator by the Democrats of the Thirty-second district and was elected by even 1,800 majority, when the Republicans carried the state by 100,000. He was re-elected in 1865 by about 3,000 majority. In 1866 he was appointed delegate from the state at large to the reconstruction convention at Philadelphia. Among his colleagues were Hon. Henry B. Payne, Hon. Hugh J. Jewett, Judge R. P. Ranney, Gen. George W. Morgan and Judge Bliss. The delegates from this district were Judge Dunlap of Toledo, and Judge William Carter of Defiance. Mr. Willett's last official position was that of supervisor of census for this district, in 1880. He died December 16, 1885.

William Sheridan, Jr., was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pa., October 30, 1825. His youth was spent on the farm, in the shop and in the school house—in the latter both as student and teacher. His life was active and his business interests varied. In December, 1850, he engaged in mercantile business at Lockport, with the late Colonel Miller, under the firm name of Miller & Sheridan. After four years, he disposed of his interest and removed to Stryker, where, from 1854 to 1865, he was employed alternately in mercantile trade, handling lumber, bridge building and farming, purchasing a farm near Stryker in 1860. In 1865 a company was organized in Boston, known as the Stryker Oil Well Company of Boston, Mass., with a capital stock of $40,000, in which Mr. Sheridan was a large stock-holder. Oil was found on his land in paying quantities at a depth of 860 feet, but the open formation of rock necessitated the abandonment of the enterprise. In 1867 Mr. Sheridan was admitted to the bar and afterwards engaged in the practice of law. He was Stryker's first postmaster, justice of the peace, and mayor, and in 1864 was chief clerk in the quartermaster's department at Wheeling, W. Va. In his own county he received the nomination for auditor and clerk of the court of common pleas, and by the Ohio State Democratic convention that of comptroller of the state treasury. He was twice elected state senator from the Thirty-second senatorial district, serving two terms, and in 1876 was a delegate to the National Democratic convention, held at St. Louis. Mr. Sheridan was one of Stryker's most active and enterprising citizens.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

December, 1843, Sidney S. Sprague; January 1, 1852, Thomas S. C. Morrison; January, 1854, Erastus H. Leland; January, 1856, Schuyler E. Blakeslee; January, 1860, Calvin L. Noble; January, 1862, Philetus W. Norris; January, 1866, Elisha G. Denman; January, 1870, Schuyler E. Blakeslee; January, 1874, John W. Nelson; January, 1876, George W. Money; January, 1878, Francis M. Carter; January, 1880, William Letcher; January, 1882, Charles W. Bowersox; January, 1884, Solomon Johnson; January, 1888, Robert Ogle; January, 1890, Blair Hagerty; January, 1892, Joseph W. Williams; January, 1894, Theodore S. Carvin; January, 1896, Robert Starr; January, 1898, Orlando Bennett; January, 1900, William M. Denman; January, 1902, O. H. Nihart; January, 1906, Henry L. Goll.

Schuyler E. Blakeslee was born near Avon Springs, N. Y., and when a child was taken by his parents to Geauga county, Ohio, where he was reared on a farm, receiving in early years an academic education, and when twenty-one years of age entered the law office of Gov. Seabury Ford, who resided at Burton, Geauga county. Here he remained until he graduated in law. In 1844 he came to Bryan, where he began the practice of his profession, which he continued until his death, February 7, 1894. Mr. Blakeslee was a man of unusual mental endowments and became one of the recognized leaders, not only of the Williams county bar, but also of the bar of Northwestern Ohio. He served as commissioner of insolvents, prosecuting attorney, and represented Williams county three terms in the lower house of the state legislature, first in 1856, and then in 1870 and 1872. He was the author of several bills which became laws of the state and was one of the most active members of the sessions in which he served. He was an old-time Whig, but after the formation of the Republican party was an earnest soldier in its ranks. The county had no better citizen.

Elisha G. Denman was born in Knox county, Ohio, about 1820, and resided there until his removal to Williams county in 1843. Here he took rank among the leading men of the county and was frequently called to positions of trust and honor. He was twice elected county treasurer and represented the district two terms in the state legislature. During all his life he enjoyed the respect of all classes of people for his good judgment, strict integrity and unfailing courtesy. He died March 21, 1877.

George Wesley Money was born March 16, 1824, in Fairfax county, Va. In early life imbibing a hatred for the institution of slavery, he left his native state and sought a home in Ohio, living for a while in Richland county. In April, 1850, he came to West Unity and lived there for some eighteen months, when he removed to the farm where he spent the greater part of his life, the land at that time being covered by an unbroken forest. His early education was confined to the log school-house of his day, with the addition thereto of a five-months' term at the Martinsburg academy, in Knox county, under the tutorage of Charles Martin, in the winter of 1846-47, his room-mate being William Windom, afterwards United States senator from Minnesota. Soon after his removal to West Unity, Mr. Money was elected to the office of township clerk, which office he filled for several years, until, in 1854, he was elected justice of the peace of Brady township (his commission being signed by Governor Medill and Secretary William Trevitt), which office he held nearly twenty-one years. On June 19, 1875, the Republican party placed Mr. Money at the head of their county ticket as a candidate for representative in the state legislature. He was elected at the following October election, carrying the full Republican vote of the county.

Francis M. Carter was born in Loudoun county, Va., April 11, 1828. His advantages in youth were limited, and he received only a common school education. He came to Williams county in 1850, and purchased an interest in Dr. Kent's drug store and enlarged it to a stock of general merchandise. During the remainder of his life he was actively engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was elected to the state legislature in the fall of 1877, and served in the regular and special sessions of 1878 and 1879. Besides the above, he held various other positions of honor and trust. He died November 11, 1885.

William Letcher came to Williams county in a comparatively early day, soon became active in business and political circles, and for a long time was regarded as one of the leading business men and politicians in the county. His acquaintance and business interests were very extensive and for years he was probably the best known man in the county. He was elected to the state legislature in the fall of 1879, and served one term. His death occurred March 25, 1886, in the seventieth year of his age.

Joseph W. Williams, M.D., was born in Williams county, Ohio, April 15, 1852. He attended the public schools in his youth, afterward the Bryan normal school, studied his profession for three years with Dr. P. O. Jump, of Bryan, following which he attended medical lectures, and graduated at Cincinnati in 1878. He began practice the same year at Bridgewater Centre, in Williams county, in connection with R. F. Lamson, which association was continued for two and a half years, when Dr. Williams removed to Edon, where he remained but six months, and then decided upon Montpelier as a permanent location. A partnership was formed between himself and Messrs. John Allen and J. W. Starr, for the purpose of carrying on the drug business. In 1886 Dr. Williams was elected coroner of Williams county, but after serving one term declined a renomination. In 1891 he was elected to the state legislature, but ill health caused him to again retire from politics, at the end of one term. In 1902 he was elected auditor of

Williams county, but died in January, 1904, a few weeks after entering upon the duties of the office.

Theodore S. Carvin was born in Allen county, Indiana, May 10, 1850. When he was but thirteen years of age his parents died, and he remained with his guardian until he was sixteen, attending school and assisting in a store. He began life for himself soon thereafter, accepting a clerkship in a drug store at Bryan, where he remained until 1877, and then located at Edon, where he purchased the drug store of J. Aller. In the same year he was appointed postmaster at Edon, and became prominently identified with the business interests of the place. In 1893 he was elected to the state legislature and served one term.

RECORDERS.

The first mention of this officer upon the records is found in the journal of the Williams county court of common pleas, of date of April 5, 1824, where it is recorded that "John Evans was also appointed by the court, Recorder for the county of Williams." The follownig successors in this office are given in the order of their service: Horace Sessions, Calvin L. Noble, Jacob Youse, Milton B. Plummer, James B. Wyatt, George L. Starr, Harvey H. Wilcox, Isaac N. Sheets, Robert D. Dole, Barrett E. Conklin, Thomas J. Coslet, Eli Swigart, Benjamin F. Ewan, Simon B. Walters and Charles F. Eyster.

Of the first corps of officials for Williams county, probably none occupied at that time a more responsible position than John Evans, who served in the dual capacity of clerk of courts and recorder. The family of this gentleman was widely known among the early residents of the Upper Maumee valley. Coming from Kentucky during the first years of the last century, the family lived for a time in Ross and Fayette counties, Ohio, and, in 1823, removed to Williams county, locating in the vicinity of Fort Defiance. Different members of the family are mentioned frequently in the early official records, and the name is preserved to posterity in the cognomen of the little village of Evansport, situated near the boundary line between Defiance and Williams.

Horace Sessions was a gentleman whose moral, social and professional qualities were widely known and highly valued throughout Northwestern Ohio. He was born in Painesville, Ohio, April 16, 1812, and removed to defiance in 1833, being the first lawyer to locate permanently in old Williams county. As the result of a severe illness he became a cripple at twelve years of age, and that misfortune caused him to turn to the legal profession, in which he won a reasonable measure of both fame and fortune. When the county seat was removed to Bryan he did not follow it, but remained in Defiance, where he practiced his profession for thirty-five years. He died suddenly, June 6, 1868, at Adrian, Michigan, where he had stopped off to visit a friend, as he was returning home from the Republican national convention.

Jacob Youse was born in Franklin county, Pa., September 30, 1820, and came to Bryan, July 24, 1841, where he built the first tannery ever seen in the county and followed the business six years. In October, 1842, he was elected county recorder, and in 1845 was re-elected. In 1847 he was chosen justice of the peace for Pulaski township, and, at the expiration of his term became a dealer in real estate, and a farmer. In the fall of 1857 he was elected clerk of the Common Pleas court, and was re-elected in 1860, proving a very efficient and popular officer. In 1864 he went to Gallatin, Tenn., as superintendent for Capt. W. A. Hunter, assistant quartermaster. Up to the beginning of the Civil war Mr. Youse was a Democrat, but after that he was a Republican. He died April 6, 1888.

Milton B. Plummer was a native of Ross county, Ohio, where his birth occurred January 2, 1818. He was reared in Ross county to manhood, where he acquired a fair district school education. By trade he was a woolen manufacturer, but his life was diversified with a number of different employments. At the age of twenty-two he began his career as a school teacher, at which he engaged both in his native county and in Williams. In November, 1841, he came to Williams county, stopping first in Springfield township, where he began teaching, and Williams county was ever after his home. In the spring of 1844 he moved to West Unity and embarked in merchandising. In 1848 he was elected county recorder by the Democratic party and moved to Bryan. In the spring of 1851 he was appointed county auditor to fill the unexpired term of Jacob Bowman, resigned. He continued as such until the term expired, afterward acting as deputy county auditor three years. He was one of the census enumerators for 1860, and in 1862 was appointed route agent on the Toledo & Wabash railroad. In the fall of 1863 he resigned this position to fill the office of clerk of courts of Williams county, to which he had been elected by the Union party, and in 1868 was appointed postal clerk on the same railroad on which he had been route agent. In 1874 he was elected mayor of Bryan and justice of the peace, and in 1877 was re-elected to the latter position. He migrated to the west in the early 90's and died there.

Robert D. Dole was born May 5, 1838, at Salem, Columbiana county, Ohio. He came with his parents to Williams county, in May, 1854, and worked at farming and carpentering until September 1, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, as a private, from which he was discharged November 25, 1863. He then re-enlisted as a veteran, in the same company and regiment, and continued in the service until May 25, 1865, when he was discharged as a non-commissioned officer. Mr. Dole served through the great Shiloh campaign, and also the siege of Corinth; was among the first to enter that city on its evacuation; participated in the campaign from Corinth, Miss., to Winchester, Tenn., and from there in the great forced march to Louisville, Ky., a distance of six hundred miles, in the months of August and September. Immediately after this he was in the Perryville and Crab Orchard campaign; still later in the Stone River, and the Triune and Tullahoma campaigns; then in the Chickamauga and Chattanooga campaigns; was among those who made the gallant charge up Mission Ridge; and there, after his reenlistment and veteran furlough of thirty days, he rejoined the army and set out with it and Sherman upon the great campaign against Atlanta. He continued with his command until September 1, 1864, when, at Jonesboro, Georgia, in that terrible charge upon the enemy's works, he was wounded in the left knee-joint, which necessitated the amputation of the leg above the knee. Thus totally disabled, after remaining in different hospitals until May, 1865, he was discharged, having served three years and eight months at the front, in active, hard campaigning. He returned home very much emaciated, and was unable to do anything until January, 1867, when, having been elected by the Republicans to the office of county recorder, he entered upon the duties thereof. He was twice re-elected and served nine years. In politics he was a Republican from the organization of the party, and was one of the delegates from the Sixth Ohio congressional district in the Chicago convention that nominated the lamented Garfield for president. In 1881 the Republicans again put Mr. Dole on their ticket, this time for probate judge, against the Hon. Martin Perky, who was the Democratic candidate for re-election, and who was successful at the polls. In March, 1882, Mr. Dole was commissioned postmaster at Bryan, which office he held for four years, and, in 1890, was appointed to the same position by President Harrison. Mr. Dole died January 8, 1901.

Thomas J. Coslet came to West Unity, Williams county, before the Civil war, and during that struggle served in the Third Ohio cavalry. In 1881 he was elected county recorder and was re-elected in 1884. In 1892 he was appointed guard in the Ohio penitentiary and was holding that position at the time of his death, November 26, 1893.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

1824, Timothy S. Smith; 1825, Thomas Philbrick; 1825, George Lantz; 1826, Isaac Hull, Jr.; 1826, George Lantz; 1827, James W. Craig; 1828, Foreman Evans; 1828, Granville Edmiston; 1829, William Seemans; 1836, George W. Crawford; 1837, William A. Brown; 1842, William A. Stevens; 1846, William McKean; 1850, Jacob Bowman; 1852, Milton B. Plummer; 1852, George Ely; 1854, A. R. Patterson; 1856, Francis M. Case; 1860, Conroy W. Mallory; 1868, Simeon Gillis; 1874, Jacob Kelly; 1877, George Rings; 1881, Alfred F. Solier; 1882, George F. Solier; 1887, Albert C. Marshall; 1894, J. Fred Von Behren; 1900, Howard Friend; 1903, Joseph W. Williams; 1904, George E. Morris; 1905, Rufus Weaver.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The record of the proceedings of the board of commissioners begins with the June term, 1824, when the first meeting was held after the organization of the county. The names of the commissioners are here given, with the year in which each was inducted into the office: In 1824, Charles Gunn, Jesse Hilton, Cyrus Hunter, Benjamin Leavell; 1825, Isaiah Hughes; 1826, Nathan Shirley, Montgomery Evans, Jesse

Hilton; 1827, Sebastian Sroufe; 1828, Payne C. Parker; 1829, Pierce Evans; 1831, James W. Craig, Montgomery Evans; 1833, Jesse Hilton; 1835, John Stubbs; 1836, John Kingery; 1837, John Rings; 1838, Oney Rice, Jr.; 1839, Payne C. Parker; 1840, Albert Opdycke; 1842, Levi Cunningham; 1844, John Stubbs, Calvin L. Noble; 1845, William Sheridan, George Ely; 1846, Harmon Doolittle; 1847, Jacob Bowman; 1848, Ezekiel Masters; 1849, Robert Ogle, Daniel Farnham; 1850, Joseph Reasoner, John Tanner; 1851, John Washburn; 1852, Thomas Burke; 1853, Stephen B. McKelvey; 1854, William Letcher; 1855, Christopher Brannan; 1856, Timothy W. Stocking; 1858, Alpheus W. Boynton; 1859, Daniel Farnham; 1863, George R. Joy; 1865, Robert Haughey; 1866, Hiram Opdycke; 1868, William G. Fish, Jacob Haughey; 1870, Timothy W. Stocking; 1871, Daniel Farnham; 1872, Eli Booth; 1873, John B. Grim; 1874, Clark Backus; 1875, P. S. Garlow; 1876, Conroy W. Mallory, Jonathan Burke; 1877, George R. Joy; 1879, George Webber; 1881, Alfred Riley; 1882, Eli Wisman; 1883, Joseph F. Greek; 1885, John Brannan; 1886, William A. Bratton; 1887, Walter I. Pepple; 1888, Archibald Pressler; 1892, John U. Bratton; 1893, John F. Hamet; 1894, Benjamin F. Morris; 1897, John Brannan; 1898, Frank Loring; 1899, Benjamin F. McGrew; 1902, Frank Waterston; 1903, Marion R. Chandler; 1904, Jeremiah Clay.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

The first mention of this officer occurs in the first day's meeting of the first session of the board of commissioners, June 7, 1824, when it was ordered that "Moses Rice be appointed county treasurer for the county of Williams, and hath this day given bond and taken the oath of office." His successors have been: 1825, William Seemans; 1826, Benjamin Leavell; 1827, Robert Wasson; 1832, William Dawson; 1838, John Lewis; 1839, Sidney S. Sprague; 1840, Elijah Lloyd; 1842, John Cameron; 1846, Reuben H. Gilson; 1850, William A. Hunter; 1852, John Rings; 1854, Samuel Ayers; 1856, Elisha G. Dennan; 1858, Nathan B. Townsend; 1860, Andrew J. Tressler; 1864, William H. Keck; 1866, John B. Grim; 1870, Oliver G. Smith; 1872, Melvin M. Boothman; 1876, Elisha M. Ogle; 1880, John Bailey; 1884, Samuel K. Swisher; 1888, George Ruff; 1892, George P. Elliott; 1896, Daniel Deemer; 1898, J. Ellsworth Scott; 1902, Willard Bradhurst; 1906, Frank Culbertson.

COUNTY CORONERS.

1824, John Oliver; 1826, Robert Wasson; 1830, DeWitt Mackrel; 1830, William Preston. Here follows an extended period where no mention is made of this office on the records. 1850, Chauncey Mattison; 1852, G. S. Dunscomb; 1856, John R. Kemp; 1858, George H. Rolland; 1860, Justus O. Rose; 1862, Quito H. Graser; 1864, Amos Betts; 1867, Ralph G. Ely; 1869, George Hart; 1871, Harrison S. Kirk; 1873, George W. Bohner; 1875, Richard F. Lamson; 1877, Daniel C. Caulkins; 1879, Charles Neblong; 1881, Frank O. Hart; 1885, Blair Hagerty; 1887, Joseph W. Williams; 1889, Clark M. Barstow; 1891, Henry M. Byall; 1893, Lorin A. Beard; 1897, Harry Wertz; 1899, O. H. Nihart; 1901, S. S. Frazier; 1905, E. A. Bechtol.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

1824, John W. Perkins; 1836, Miller Arrowsmith; 1845, Seth B. Hyatt; 1853, James Thompson; 1856, Charles W. Skinner; 1862, Chauncey C. Stubbs; 1864, Alvin T. Bement; 1868, Charles W. Skinner; 1871, James Paul; 1874, Emerson Opdycke; 1877, James Paul; 1883, Francis M. Priest; 1886, John A. Mattoon; 1889, John B. Grim; 1898, Selden Hoadley; 1901, B. N. Doughton.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS, CLERKS AND SHERIFFS.

See chapter on Bench and Bar.

CHAPTER IX

RESOURCES AND EARLY ENTERPRISES

AS the main source of wealth in Williams county is agriculture, a chapter descriptive of the resources of the county may appropriately be prefaced by an account of the land.

The features of topography are St. Joseph and Tiffin rivers and their tributaries, and the few eminences that rise above the usual level of valley and upland. "In common with the adjacent counties north of the Maumee river, its surface has a general slope to the southeast, and the highest land in this portion of the state is in the township of Northwest, where the general surface lies from 970 to 1,020 feet above the level of the sea, and where a few hills rise fifty feet higher." The altitude above sea level at Stryker is 719 feet; Bean Creek, 698 feet; the railroad track at Bryan is 771 feet; at Melbern, 843; at Summit, 874; at Edgerton, 843, and Butler, Indiana, is 870 feet. These elevations are not much more than that of the water of Lake Erie, (573 feet).

The southeastern corner of the county is 300 feet lower than the northwestern, the descent being gentle, and, with one notable exception, uniform throughout. This exception is occasioned by a ridge which crosses in a northeast and southwest direction just east of the St. Joseph river. Topographically, it is a mere swell on the surface of the plain, six or eight miles broad at the base, with a maximum height of fifty feet, and not differing in superficial characters from the adjacent country. All of the country west of this ridge is drained by the St. Joseph river, which flows southwestward and, by a junction with the St. Mary's at Fort Wayne, Ind., forms the Maumee. East of the ridge the water is collected by Tiffin river (or Bean Creek, as it is more commonly called), which crosses the southeast corner of the county and flows southward to the Maumee at Defiance. The small streams rise in the main from perennial springs, and are lively and clear, and the beds of all the streams rest upon rock.*

The indurated rocks, being everywhere covered by a heavy bed of drift, have been reached in this county only by boring, and this only at a few places. A well drilled for oil at Stryker, after traversing 129 feet of drift, met the Huron shale, with a thickness of sixty-eight feet, and underlaid by limestone. Comparing this record with the railroad levels, the base of the Huron shale is shown to be here fifty feet below the level of Lake Erie. Comparing this, again, with the altitude of the same horizon at various points along the Maumee river, it appears that its dip is to the north, or northwest, at the rate of seven or eight feet to the mile. In adjacent portions of Michigan, the dip, so far as known, is in the same direction; and it is hence presumed to be continuous through the unexplored interval. There is reason to believe, too, that the gradual rise of the county toward the northwest is accompanied by a corresponding and equal activity of the rock surface. It follows as probable that the higher land is underlaid by 500 feet of strata superior to the base of the Huron shale, and that the upper portion of this base belongs to the next succeeding base—the Waverly. The lower margin of the Huron shale is in every direction beyond the limits of Williams county. The stratagraphical data are so unsatisfactory that the map of the country has been made to represent, instead, the features of the surface geology, which in their relation to the distribution of soils are of more interest and importance.

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*Prof. G. K. Gilbert, of the Ohio Geological Corps.

The geology of the soils is independent of the underlying rocks and is referable exclusively to the drift; they are divided into two somewhat marked provinces by the upper beach ridge. This enters Williams county at Williams Center, and passing with a nearly straight course, just west of Bryan and Pulaski and through West Unity, crosses into Fulton county, a half mile north of the "Fulton Line." Its soil is sandy, and in some places objectionably light on the summit of the ridge, but the eastern slope affords everywhere a rich and highly-prized sandy loam, which shades gradually into the clay loam of the plain. Easy drainage, easy tillage, and the advantage of building sites at once pleasant and salubrious, led to the early occupation of this land, and it now bears prominently the visible marks of prosperity. A second ridge, lying a little east of the other and running from the south line to Bryan, presents similar characters, and some sand ridges lying east of West Unity may be included in the same category. West of the upper beach the surface consists of unmodified Erie clay, and the soils present all the variety of that heterogeneous deposit. The major part is a yellow or buff clay, with enough sand and gravel to render it arable and permeable. Patches of unmixed clay are frequent, but small; and though sometimes friable, are more commonly very adhesive and difficult of management. Except in swales, the accumulation of mold is inconsiderable, but the soil is retentive of vegetable manures and gives a good return for their application. Carbonate of lime was originally very abundant and remains on the more level portions, but appears to have been washed from the slopes. Sand is rarely predominant, but in Northwest township a tract of two or three miles area is covered by a clean, yellow sand. It has for the most part a subsoil of clay so near the surface as to render the land valuable, but near Nettle Lake it is deep and light. The country generally is rolling or undulating, and originally abounded with deep marshes, in which are extensive deposits of marl, and peat or muck. Along the St. Joseph river, and appearing alternately on the opposite banks, is a strip of flat, sandy land, nearly identical in character with the bottom land that forms the immediate bank of the river. It is in fact an ancient bottom or flood-plain of the St. Joseph, formed when its current was checked by lake water standing at the height of the upper beach. At Edgerton this deposit has a depth of forty feet, and its extreme width is about one mile. It can be traced northward as far as Pioneer, but above there is not distinguishable from the present bottom. Like most river bottoms, it forms a valuable soil and is not subject to the disadvantage of occasional overflow. East of the beach ridges, and between them, the plain is of a rich, friable clay loam, entirely stoneless, and varied near the ridges by streaks of sandy loam. It is formed of fine material derived from the Erie clay, and spread smoothly by lake currents. Lying so near level that the water of rains runs off but slowly, it has accumulated a rich store of vegetable mold and needs but thorough drainage to develop its wealth. This covers the greater part of Pulaski, Brady and Springfield; but in the latter townships are some slight swells exhibiting the gravelly clay of the western portion of the county—truncated knolls of the Erie clay that were not covered by the lacustrine deposits.

Williams county contains no stone quarry, and the great depth of the drift forbids the hope that one may be discovered. In the northern and eastern townships, bowlders have been found that sufficed for the foundations of farm houses; but most of the land east of the lake ridges lacks even these.

Long after Williams county was raised above the sea, as a sort of plain, topped by the ocean-rippled shales of the Waverly series; long after the depressions and up-raisings that accompanied the deposit of the carboniferous or coal-bearing rocks to the eastward; and long after the streams of that ancient time had cut away the rocks to form the valleys nearly as they are today, throughout a period of erosion when the Alleghany mountains were reduced from a height of five miles to something near their present modest altitudes—after all this, the ice age came and covered the greater part of Ohio with a glacier sheet which completely enveloped what is now Williams county. This county, therefore, has the same glacial history as has all the northern part of the state. Not a summit is there that stood above the glaciers, and the clay and bowlders that mark the drift overlie all the ordinary high land of the county. The areas covered by the drift furnish far more varied and fruitful soils than the native rocks, and hence the lands in Williams county take their place among the best lands in the state of Ohio.

Soon after the establishment of the county seat at Bryan, an unexpected source of water wealth developed itself, being artesian or flowing wells. These famous wells, the first of which were developed in 1842, have their source in the Erie clay. They have become so numerous, and the search for them has been so general, that their distribution in this and the adjoining counties is pretty well defined, and some explanation of them may be given. They are found in a belt of country which, in common with the other geological features of the vicinity, has a northeast and southwest trend. Its western limit is the more definite, and, through Defiance county and the southern part of Williams, follows close to the upper beach line; the belt then follows more to the east, and terminates in Gorham township, Fulton county. Its width varies from two to ten miles, and seems to be affected by the proximity of a deep cutting stream, as the Maumee river, or the lower course of Bean creek. The beds of sand are sometimes isolated and dry, and sometimes connected in broad systems, through which water percolates, following the descent of the land. West of the upper ridge, it finds its way to the surface at many points, forming springs along the streams; and the water, in neighboring deep wells, rises no higher, or but little higher, than these springs. East of the ridge, the unbroken lacustrine clay cuts off the discharge through springs, as far as the nearest deep-cutting stream. This taps the sandbeds and lowers the head for some distance; but the sand, through which the water seeps, affords sufficient resistance to maintain an artesian head near the ridge. The discharge, though copious, is sensibly limited. Every new fountain well diminishes the flow of those near it, and, as the number of wells in a locality increases, the head is lowered. It is said by older citizens that the fountain head at Bryan has fallen several feet in their recollection, and that many wells, which originally flowed, now have to be furnished with pumps. The source of this everwelling water, artesian and otherwise, is, of course, higher than the discharge, and, consequently, west of the lake ridges. Its perennial flow suggests a distant reservoir, while the small percentage of its mineral constituents, and their variable character, point to one near at hand. The superficial, yellow portion of the Erie clay, is, in great part, permeable, and, storing a portion of the water that falls on it, yields it gradually to the underlying sand beds whenever it touches them.

The mineral impurities of the well and spring water of the country are as variable as the constitution of the clay from which they are derived. The usual earthy carbonates, constituting it "hard" water, are always present, though not often in great amount. Oxide of iron, accompanied by sylphydric acid, is very common, and frequently in considerable force, giving a yellow coating to the spouts and troughs that convey the water. A few wells in various localities afford what is called "bitter water." This is rendered noxious, and fortunately, at the same time, unpalatable, by the presence of iron, alum or perhaps copperas.

The data of the development of agriculture in Williams county is the life story of the pioneers who cleared away the forests, and of the sturdy and faithful workers who have been their successors. Concerning them, much information is given in the township chapters of this work. What has been achieved in the eighty years since the organization of the county, as well as what are the principal lines of farm work, are told in the figures of the crops of the present, according to the statistics of the year 1904. The great crop of Williams county is corn, to which 31,377 acres were devoted in the spring of 1903. The crop of course varies from year to year, but, in 1903, it was 1,295,270 bushels. The wheat crop comes next, for as is well known this cereal does best in the drift lands of the northern part of the State. In fact, the glacial drift throughout the old northwest territory makes possible the great wheat crops and the wealth of the country. Williams county had 13,475 acres in wheat in 1903, and the yield was 231,349 bushels, according to the agricultural statisticians. Over twenty-three thousand acres are devoted to meadow hay, with a product of thirty-three thousand five hundred tons, and 17,392 acres to clover, with a yield of 22,713 tons of that sort of hay. These figures we suppose are given approximately, as everyone is aware that statistical figures of this sort are no more than approximations at the best. The potato crop in 1903 was about 75,000 bushels, the onion crop 23,000 bushels. The yield of oats was 796,137 bushels, of rye 3,157, and of buckwheat 379. There was no broom corn reported in the county, but there were 770 gallons of sorghum made. The maple syrup production was estimated at 6,524 gallons and the bees made nearly nine thousand pounds of honey.

The fruit yields were estimated as follows: One hundred and forty-eight thousand bushels of apples, ninety-six bushels of peaches, 140 bushels of pears, forty-eight bushels of plums, 430 bushels of other small fruits, and 10,380 pounds of grapes.

In the way of live stock the county had 5,820 horses, 13,735 cattle, 22,863 hogs, 22,178 sheep. The wool clip was 164,225 pounds. The milk sold was 451,567 gallons in addition to that used by owners of cows, and nearly 750,000 pounds of butter were made. The eggs gathered were estimated at 842,110 dozen.

According to the figures of the state board of equalization of taxes there are 129,520 acres of arable or plow land; 74,233 acres of meadow or pasture land, and 59,044 acres besides, classed as uncultivated or wood land, making a total of 262,797 acres of farm lands, which were assigned a value for taxation by the State board, of $5,225,612.

No county in Northwestern Ohio, probably, possesses better elements to guarantee prosperity to an agricultural organization than does the county of Williams. Except the waters of Nettle Lake, which is small in size, and those that form river and creek channels, there is not a waste acre in the county. An agricultural society was founded in 1856. Levi Cunningham and David Morrow were prime movers in the enterprise and were prominent in the organization. In October, of the above named year, the society gave its first regular fair, and although the premiums offered were small in amount, the attendance was large, and the friends of the enterprise were much encouraged. This fair was held on the court house square. Grounds were afterwards obtained near town and exhibitions were held there annually until 1885, when the early organization ceased to exist.

The Union Agricultural society of Williams, Fulton and Defiance counties was organized at West Unity, in 1857, and a fair was held there in the fall of the same year. The officers of the association were Dr. G. W. Finch, president; Swain Pierce and John Kunkle, vice-presidents; N. S. Snow, secretary; Benjamin Borton, treasurer; J. S. Prickett, Asher Ely, John Miller, and G. R. Richardson, managers. Fairs were held with considerable success for several years, but on account of the war breaking out, in 1861, it was thought best not to hold a fair in 1862, and the organization soon afterwards went out of existence.

In 1885, another agricultural society was organized in Williams county, for the purpose of holding annual exhibitions at Montpelier, with Robert Ogle as president; W. S. Boon, vice-president, and George Strayer, secretary. The directors were W. S. Boon, Jacob Leu, Franklin Brannan, Robert Ogle, M. E. Griswold, George Strayer, W. W. Kunsman, Fred. Fulton, William Clark, Chet. Holloway, Hugh Brandon, Simon Waterston, John U. Bauer, Adam Laftanner and Alfred Riley. This organization, with changes in personnel from year to year, maintained successful fairs until 1898, when the last one was held by that organization. A new association was then formed and incorporated under the name of Williams County Agricultural society, the grounds and equipments were purchased from the old association, and, beginning with 1900, very satisfactory and prosperous exhibitions have been held annually. There are reasonably large horticultural interests in the county and considerable attention is given to the growing of fruits, fine exhibits being made in this line at the agricultural fairs.

Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry were organized in Williams county, in 1874, the principal movers being John P. Marsh, Peter S. Garlow, Thomas Hodson, Stephen B. McKelvey, Daniel Thorp, Henry Kimball, A. J. Alvord, Timothy W. Stocking and J. A. Bowser. John P. Marsh of Jefferson township, was prominent in the farmers' organizations, and devoted considerable attention to matters affecting the welfare of the husbandmen.

Peter L. Warren, of Brady township, is prominent among the horticulturists of Northwestern Ohio, and having devoted a great deal of thought to the subject, contributes valuable articles to the public press upon Horticulture.

Benjamin F. Kniffin has been perhaps the most extensive horse breeder in Williams county. He was born in Huron county, O., in April, 1827, and comes of a family devoted to farming and stock raising. After he came to Williams county, in 1865, he immediately became engaged in the stock business, also giving some attention to blooded horses and sending some out to the racing fields. Among these, "Belle Gibson" was perhaps the most noted throughout Northwestern Ohio.

In 1892, the Bryan Fair Company was organized, mainly by U. A. Wynn, Oscar Eaton, W. H. Taylor, C. H. Masters and Frank Yesbera. The association leased a tract of land off Main street, just north of the L. S. & M. S. railroad, and built a mile track. A meeting was held in the fall of 1892, devoted entirely to racing, but for some reason or other no more meetings were held. It had been intended to hold annual fairs, but the project never materialized.

The first efforts of the pioneers were, of course, after providing a shelter, to raise something to eat. There was game in abundance—venison, wild turkey and bear meat. Corn was the great cereal crop, and out of it was made a coarse meal and corn bread, and a good deal of whiskey. Wheat was grown, and in time took the place of corn as an article of human food. Potatoes were easily grown, but were not so popular then as now. Fruit was, of course, very rare at first, but there was an abundance of wild berries which served very well.

Next to food the great necessity was clothing, and it was no small task to obtain it from "back east" unless one were content with what the new country afforded. The home manufacture of buckskin clothes was not uncommon, as well as the weaving of flax shirts. "Linsy-woolsy" suits were considered full dress, except for the dandies or the city men of imposing rank and station. Buckskin was considered good material for moccasins until tanneries were introduced, and then men skilled in the handling of leather went from cabin to cabin to make footwear for the people.

Following the most primitive manufactures came the production of woolen yarn and cloth, flouring and saw mills, blacksmith shops and forges.

The pioneer farmers in some sections engaged in the manufacture of corn meal themselves, using what was facetiously termed the "Armstrong". mill. A solid stump was cut square on the top and a cavity burned out in it, and when cleaned out this became the mortar, in which corn was put and vigorously pounded. The product was sifted through sieves made by stretching deer hides, when green, over hoops and puncturing them with small holes when dry. Coffee mills of good size were brought into Ohio by many settlers, and some member of the family was kept busy at the grinding.

The first water power mills of the settlers were "corn crackers," supported by two large canoes anchored in some stream where the current was rapid. Between the boats was left a chute for the water, in which the motor wheel hung and revolved. Primitive methods, such as have been described above, may not have been employed by the first settlers in the present limits of Williams county, but the older people will call to mind by the descriptions given the story of the hardships experienced in the earlier days of Ohio's history.

Water power was, of course, chiefly depended upon for the early industries. Consequently they clustered mainly along such streams as St. Joseph river, Bean creek, Nettle creek, Beaver creek, etc. Some of these pioneer enterprises are described in the township chapters and some may here be briefly mentioned.

In October, 1833, John Perkins, with his sons, Isaac and Garret, and son-in-law, John Plummer, removed from Brunersburg. He was also accompanied by John Moss, George Lantz, Henry Jones and a Mr. Hood, and they all established themselves on Beaver creek, where they named their colony Lafayette. John Perkins built a grist and saw mill on the creek, which, it is believed, was the first grist mill erected within what are now the limits of Williams county. Mr. Perkins was one of the most notable pioneers of this section and served as county surveyor for years. He also was one of the associate judges of the first courts held in the county.

Samuel Holton, an early settler of St. Joseph township, located one mile north of the present site of Edgerton and there built the first saw mill ever built in the township. It stood on the banks of Fish creek and was built as early as 1830. It was operated for many years, but finally fell into decay, was torn down, the dam destroyed, and the waters of Fish creek allowed to flow on unvexed to the St. Joseph river. This mill antedated the Perkins mill at Pulaski by about three years, and it was doubtless the first saw mill to be operated in the present Williams county. It was not a grist mill, although some time after its construction a rude contrivance was placed in it for the purpose of grinding. Every mark of these pioneer improvements has long since been obliterated, and a stranger, riding along the banks of the creek, would hardly dream that at that point existed an important and flourishing industry in the early days of the county. Later, a grist mill was built at West Buffalo, which, for many years, did the milling for the people of the four townships cornering there.

In the winter of 1835 and spring of 1836, John Snider, John Coy, and Jacob Coy built a grist mill at Evansport, which was considered a grand thing for the adjoining country. In 1857, Kingsland & Chase built a grist mill in the west part of Stryker, which was the first one built in Springfield township. About 1855, John C. Chappius built what is known as the "Eagle Mills" at Stryker, and as the other mill had burned afterward, "Eagle Mills" was left as the only one in Springfield.

In 1836, Walter Coleman built the first grist mill in Brady township. This mill was run by ox-power; but we are informed that the first wheat that was raised in that township was ground in Perkins' mill at Pulaski. It is told that Isaac Ritchey, at the age of fifty-five, took his gun, and, shouldering two bushels of wheat, carried it from West Unity to the Pulaski mills without once laying down his burden. On his return trip he killed a deer, which he also shouldered and brought home with his grist. Mr. Ritchey died at West Unity in 1879, at the ripe old age of ninety-one. About 1852, Rings, Benson, Dawson, Calvin and Vail erected a flouring mill in the east part of West Unity. It was subsequently removed to Bryan by John A. Simon and was operated there for years.

About 1842, Jacob Bowman constructed a strong dam on Lick creek, near where the stream is crossed by the Center and Bryan road, and, with the help of eight or ten hired men, excavated a long race across the large bend in the stream, on sections 24 and 25, in Center township. Near the terminus of the race he erected a two-storied frame grist mill and placed therein two sets of buhrs, one for wheat and the other for corn. These mills were conducted quite successfully for many years and became well-known and well-patronized, saving long journeys through bottomless roads, to distant places. Henry Ruse purchased the grist mill after a number of years and placed in it a steam engine. The mill being destroyed by fire, he rebuilt it, but after a number of years it was burned again and the site was then abandoned for such purposes. The first "grist mill" in Center township, however, was conducted by Sebastian Frame, immediately after his arrival in the township, in the summer or autumn of 1833. He erected a small building on his farm, in which he placed a small set of "niggerhead" buhrs to be used in "cracking corn." It was located on a branch of Lick creek and was operated by water power, and, later, by horse or ox power.

In 1838, a grist mill was built on the St. Joseph river, in the southeast corner of Florence township, by Elias Depew and John D. Martin, and from the start they had a fair patronage. The lumber which was used in its construction was prepared at a saw mill, near by, and, of course, consisted wholly of native wood. It has been stated that, before the erection of this grist mill, a small run of buhrs had been placed in the saw mill and used to crack corn for the few families who lived within five or six miles of the place. Mr. Martin sold out his interest in the mill, about 1840, to John Depew, a brother of Elias, and about four years later the brothers transferred their interests in the same to William Seemans. After a few years, the mill was again sold and continued operating under various ownerships until about the time of the Civil war, when the dam was destroyed and was never rebuilt. In early years the mill was widely known, more, perhaps, from the accommodations afforded settlers than from any capital merit of the flour produced. Great trouble was experienced in preserving the dam in times of high water, owing to the sandy nature of the soil used in its construction; and for this reason the mill would not have been successful had it not been for the excellent patronage extended it.

As an illustration of the hardships of the early days, the following incident is told of David Singer, Sr., who was among the first settlers of Florence township: At one time, for four weeks, his family lived without any bread whatever, their only food consisting of rice soup and wild meat. They had a little money and tried to buy a small quantity of potatoes that had had the eyes cut out; but they failed, the owner saying: "I will not sell, as I can live on potatoes without eyes, but cannot on money." Finally, Mr. Singer started to mill with his grist on his back, going first to Denmark, but failing there he went on to Jacob Dillman's, who could not help him, and thence on to Brunersburg. At the expiration of almost a week he returned home, carrying seventy pounds on his back and being completely worn out with his load and with fasting.

In 1856, Andrew Sheline erected a grist mill at Edon. The structure was two-storied, about 30x30 feet, contained two sets of buhrs and was operated by a steam engine. John Aller bought an interest in it about 1860, and a few years later the building was moved to another spot and used for different purposes.

Andrew Ferrier and his sons moved from Coshocton county, in 1835, and erected the first grist mill in Jefferson township, on Beaver creek, in 1837. His wife and self built the dam of cobble stones. The building was of logs. The wheat was ground and then conveyed to the second story by hand. The miller put the unbolted flour in a hole in the floor, while the patron turned the reel with the bolt on. In this way the early settlers in that vicinity procured their flour. The old gentleman was a Presbyterian minister. Prior to his advent, and before any other mills were established, the residents of that part of the county had to go to Brunersburg for their flour and corn-meal and pirogue it up Bean creek. It would take from four to six days to make a trip, and when they did arrive, oftimes, the flour made "sick bread."

In 1844, a dam was constructed across the Little St. Joseph river, at Bridgewater Center, and a rude frame structure was erected, in which was placed machinery for a saw mill. In a short time, a small set of "nigger-head" buhrs were placed in an apartment of the building and used for about eight years. How well the settlers appreciated this rude grist mill will never be thoroughly understood, for it is practically impossible to realize the extent of the hardships and privations that were encountered by the pioneers. The stones were about two feet in diameter and the bolt was made of muslin. The mill was discontinued many years ago. In about the year 1848, Elias Depew erected a very large, three-storied frame grist mill in the southeastern part of Bridgewater township, on the St. Joseph river. The structure was about 40x60 feet, containing three or more run of stone, and it required the united labor of over one hundred men three days to erect the heavy frame work. After the mill had done an excellent work for the township, about 1861, it was destroyed by fire under somewhat suspicious circumstances.

At just what time the early residents of Superior township secured the blessing of a grist mill in their midst, is uncertain; but there is good authority for stating that among the very first buildings erected on the present site of Montpelier was a grist mill, erected by Daniel Tucker and a Mr. Huston, and located near the spot of the present structure.

In 1854, Philetus W. Norris built a grist mill at Pioneer, the motive power of which was steam, and two sets of buhrs did the grinding. This mill became one of the substantial institutions of Pioneer, and from the first met with an excellent patronage, under various owners who succeeded Mr. Norris.

Notable among the present flouring mills of the county are the Bryan City Mills; the Montpelier City Mills, established, in 1861, by Joseph Diebely; the mill of D. D. Keiss in Edon; the Phoenix Flouring Mills at Pioneer, run by H. Hawk; one at West Unity, run by the Unity Mill Company, and one or two small mills in other portions of the county.

A woolen factory was started in Edgerton, in the early 60's, and for years following did a thriving business.

At one time there was a flourishing woolen factory at Bryan, but its site is now covered by buildings devoted to other industrial enterprises.

A woolen factory was erected in West Unity, in 1865, by George Rings, L. Grant and others. The present owners are the Unity Mill Co. In 1881, a knitting department was added and additional help employed, some of the finest knitting work in the country being turned out.

In about the year 1846, Daniel Wertz erected a building in the eastern part of Center township, in which he placed the necessary machinery for carding wool and dressing cloth. The motor for operating the mill was water from the stream on which the building was situated. A considerable quantity of wool was taken to his mill, where it was carded, after which it was taken home, spun, woven into cloth and returned to the mill to be fulled or dressed. The mill had all it could do during the wet months—the only times it could operate. It did a paying business for about ten years and was then discontinued.

In 1866, Andrew Sheline and Joseph Allomong erected a three-story frame building, 40x60 feet, at Edon, designing the same for a woolen factory. Three looms, one jack of 220 spindles, a set (three machines) of forty-eight inch manufacturing cards, a twenty-four inch double-roll card, a picker, a napper, a dresser, a fuller, a scourer and an excellent engine were placed in this building. At that time, just at the close of the war, woolen fabrics commanded almost fabulous prices, and at first an excellent business of carding, spinning, weaving and dressing was done, there being not less than seventy thousand pounds of wool used during each of the first two or three years. For several years after that, from fifty thousand to sixty thousand pounds were used; but after that the business decreased to an average of about twenty-five thousand pounds per annum. About 1870, Allomong sold his interest to Sheline, and the latter, in 1881, sold to his son, Eli R. Sheline, who still conducts the business.

Joseph Spindler started a tannery in Edgerton, soon after that town was started. He continued in the business there for a number of years, making good leather and having a fine patronage.

In 1842, Jacob Youse established a tannery in Bryan and operated it until 1848, when he sold it to William R. Bowlby. During the six years it was managed by Mr. Youse it was the most important manufacturing industry in the place. A. M. Rolls also engaged in the business for a time, but for many years past Bryan has had no tannery.

Von Behren & Shoner started a tannery in Stryker, in 1862. Three years later, Von Behren bought Mr. Shoner's interest, and soon thereafter H. G. Shaffer bought a half interest in the establishment.

A tannery was built in Montpelier, as early as 1848, but after a few years it was abandoned.

Snowdon & Schenk erected a tannery at Pioneer, about 1867, sinking some ten or twelve vats. The property changed owners many times and the business was continued for years. A great quantity of excellent leather was turned out.

It is thought that Chauncey Wells burned the first kiln of brick ever manufactured in Williams county. The kiln was located at West Unity and the event occurred during the early history of that village.

The first store in St. Joseph township was established by Payne C. Parker in the now "deserted village" of Denmark, in 1836. Daniel Farnham clerked for him about four months that year, and, in 1840, started a store himself on his farm. He rafted lumber down the St. Joseph river to Fort Wayne and with the proceeds purchased his stock of goods. It is said that he kept his first stock in a box under the bed; but at any rate he prospered, remained on the farm until 1855 and then moved his store to Edgerton. Still later than Farnham, George Long started a general store at his residence on the Bellefontaine road, kept his goods in the sitting-room of his house and did a big business with the surrounding farmers. He afterwards built a store building near his residence and did business there until 1864, when he bought out John Ainsworth, at Edgerton, and entered into business there. The first stock of goods was brought to Edgerton by the railroad company and afterward sold to William Hill.

In the fall of 1841, William Yates brought with him from Wayne county, where he had formerly been engaged in mercantile business, a stock of goods with which he opened up the first store in Bryan. His freights were transported from Defiance in wagons drawn by ox-teams, and three days were consumed in making the distance, which, in a straight line, would be eighteen miles. In December, 1855, the store and dwelling of Mr. Yates were burned and he retired from the business. The three merchants who immediately succeeded him were, in order of time, D. M. Crall, Jacob Boyer and Charles Case. Alonzo Rawson opened the first stock of goods at Lafayette (since changed to Pulaski), in a house built by himself, and afterward sold to A. W. Boynton, when Mr. Rawson removed from the county.

Blinn & Letcher (Chester Blinn and William Letcher) started a store in Stryker in the fall of 1853 and did business there for several years, and E. W. Fuller was also one of the first dry goods merchants of that village.

Augustus F. Hull sold the first goods in Brady township, and the first store opened in West Unity was conducted by a Mr. Hastings. The merchants in that village, in 1847, were Plummer & Cline, G. H. Nitchey and Ayers & Co. In the spring of 1848, Rings & Benson started a store there and did a flourishing business up to the year 1855, when Mr. Rings died. Plummer & Cline quit business in the summer of 1848, and in the fall, S. Walker of Adrian, moved in and did a good business for several years. In the year 1850, Seth Lindsley opened a dry goods store in West Unity, and in 1851, A. J.

Tressler opened a stock of general merchandise. About a year afterwards Mr. Lindsley moved to Stryker, and, in 1859, Mr. Tressler located in Bryan.

In 1836, Jacob Bowman opened a general store in Williams Center, and about the same time John D. Martin opened another at the same place. These stores furnished all sorts of useful articles needed in the backwoods, and almost any kind of produce was taken as payment. Deer skins were for many years almost legal tender for the payment of obligations. Money was very scarce and other mediums of exchange were sought and found. So many yards of calico were worth so many pounds of butter; so many pounds of sugar or coffee were worth so many deer skins or hams, or dozens of eggs; and such a pair of boots was worth such a hog, or such furs. Estimates of value were thus made from the self-regulated law of supply and demand with the various articles in the possession of the settlers. Stores were not opened in villages alone, they were kept in farmers' houses. Many of the settlers placed in their cabins dry goods, groceries, hardware, queensware, etc. In January, 1848, Giles H. Tomlinson opened a store in Williams Center with a general stock of goods which he brought from Bryan—where he had previously been in business—and continued in such business until 1862. Freeman & Freedy opened a store soon after 1848, and about the same time Ruse & Tharp did likewise. A Mr. Boyd of Defiance, sent a stock of goods to be sold at Williams Center, and Bowman & Core opened a store there also, but they finally sold out at auction. Gower Bros. began business there during the Civil war and for a number of years conducted a fair business. They were succeeded by Garver & Walker. Hugh Mills opened a store in 1861 and continued until 1877. David Lovejoy built one of the first houses in Melbern, in which he opened a small grocery, about 1866. In about 1871, William Thomas opened a general stock of goods there.

Benjamin C. Pickle, an old settler and an excellent citizen, started an ashery at Union Corners, in Florence township, at a very early day, and at the same time sold goods from a small stock he kept on hand. Several small stores were started in various parts of that township, until at last the foundation of villages led to their discontinuance. In Edon, a man named Herbert built a small plank house, about 1856, and began selling from a stock of notions. Robert Smith located there about 1858 and built a storehouse in which he placed a general assortment of goods. Two or three years later he sold the stock to George Huber, who did a lucrative business until 1866 or 1867, when he sold to Cook & Eichelberger, both of whom retired from business in a few years. John Aller and George Ball, under the firm name of Aller & Ball, opened a store in Edon about 1868, but after a few years retired. R. A. Leonard and J. K. Deal were the first merchants in Blakeslee, after the birth of the town in 1881, but they were small grocery establishments, and J. N. Chilcote has the distinction of opening up the first stock of general merchandise there.

John Richart started the first store at West Jefferson, in Jefferson township; Samuel Sherran the second; Brownwell & White, the third. Nathaniel S. Dewey located in the southwestern part of Bridgewater township, some time during the year 1839, and began selling from a small stock of goods. It is related that Martin Perky, then a resident of northern Florence township and a very generous tobacco chewer, used his last "chew" and went to Dewey's store for a fresh supply. Dewey exhibited his stock of tobacco, consisting of "twist," which filled a small box about the size of those now used in the cigar trade. Mr. Perky, in his enthusiasm and thankfulness, and thinking, doubtless as the boy did, that "gimlets would be gimlets next year," wanted to purchase the entire supply; but Dewey would not sell all, as others of his customers must be accommodated. Two good sized "twists" were sold, however, and the future Probate Judge went home reasonably happy. Dewey traded quite extensively with the Indians, who, at that early period, wandered in small bands all over the country. One day, two Indians, while in his store became enraged at each other, drew their knives and prepared for the encounter which seemed inevitable. Mr. Dewey, who was standing near, quietly opened the door and when one of the Indians came near it he violently pushed the blood-thirsty red-skin out into the yard and closed the door. Then a little parleying settled the matter. Richard Wittington conducted a small store, near Cogswell's Corners, about 1843, and after about a year and a half Alexander Parker bought the business, Riley Parker also owning an interest. Hill & Marshall conducted a store at Hill's Corners during the Civil war and did an excellent business. In about the year 1850, Edington Sterner opened a country store about a mile north of Bridgewater Center; but, three years later, moved his store to the latter place, and at the end of two years more sold out to Robert Scammel. Clark Backus and Henry Bennett were in with goods soon afterwards, and they were followed by Putnam & Corbett, Horace P. Moore, James Beatty and Waldo Corbett.

The first store in Millcreek township was opened by Landon & Haines, in 1853, at Hamer. A second store, kept by O. S. Smith, was destroyed by fire in 1873. This was the first building destroyed by fire in Millcreek township—a locality which is in the midst of territory which since has been the scene of depredations caused by what is claimed to have been an organized gang of "fire-bugs."

It is conceded that Conroy W. Mallory opened the first general merchandise store in the place now known as Montpelier, in 1845. Following him in the trade were Brown & Crissey and James T. Platt. Prior, however, to Mr. Mallory's engagement in business, Jacob Snyder and William Crissey had a small store west of town, on the farm so long owned by the Brundydge family. In its day, this place was known as "Tuckertown." Mr. Mallory continued business until 1852, when he sold at auction his merchandise stock and removed to Bryan.

In about the year 1846, William H. Billings opened a small store on his farm in Northwest township, where the unpretentious little village, called Billingstown, afterwards sprung up. He slowly increased his stock and continued in business some fifteen years. Charles Hall and Orin Fenton succeeded Mr. Billings in the mercantile trade, but they retired after a few months and were followed by Jacob Kintigh, who, for many years, kept a well-patronized country store. S. Wesley Houtz opened a store on "Gravel Hill," near Nettle Lake, about 1877, and, in 1880, Welch Brothers obtained it in a trade and conducted it for several years. Jacob Kintigh, mentioned above, built an ashery at "Kintightown," southeast of the lake, in about the year 1854, and at the same time began selling from a small stock of goods which he placed in his dwelling. For the first few years his goods were weighed with steelyards; but, after about 1856, when he erected a small store building, he had a much larger stock of goods and much better means for weighing the same. He did a thriving business, as citizens without money could take their ashes to him and get goods from his store in exchange. This was a great accommodation to the neighborhood. His son, George, succeeded him in the mercantile trade, in about 1866, and at the latter's death, another son, Cyrus, secured the store and conducted it for several years. "Kintightown" at one time was a small industrial center. A dam across Nettle creek afforded excellent water power and a saw mill there did an extensive business. Dr. James Steward, of considerable local fame, practiced medicine there for a time, and a blacksmith shop was established and conducted by Aaron Shinn. In about 1850, George Porter opened a small store about half a mile east of the present site of Columbia, and about three years later moved into the village, which at that time was called Porter's Corners. Since his advent there, Columbia has been an important trading point for the surrounding country.

In about the year 1855, Augustus Moore opened a small store at Kunkle's Corners, in Madison township, the stock consisting largely of groceries. A fair trade was obtained, but after continuing some three years, the stock was closed out and the building sold to Levi Hendricks, who sold goods therein for a short time. In 1854, Joseph Rogers brought the first stock of goods to Pioneer, which consisted of a general assortment of articles that were in demand at country stores at the time. Philetus W. Norris soon went in with him, but after a few years sold out and Rogers continued on alone until about 1860, when he closed out his business. David Worth was the second merchant, a Mr. Colmer, third, and a Mr. Roberts, fourth. George R. Joy was the fifth, having taken Worth's place. After him came Bolds, the sixth, and then Canfield, the seventh.

The freight wagons that were driven in early days and gave Williams county merchants transportation facilities to the canal at Defiance, thence reaching the East and South, have become obsolete, their places being taken by the railroads. Of these the Lake Shore

& Michigan Southern has 24 miles of main track and 31 miles of second track and sidings in the county; the Wabash system 45 miles of main and 22 miles of side track and the Cincinnati Northern 22 miles of main and 4 miles of side track. The total for the county is 91 miles of main track and 57 miles of second track and sidings. These roads pay over $40,000 taxes annually upon their property in the county.

CHAPTER X

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE first schools in Williams county were supported by subscription or by assessment upon the patrons according to the number of children they sent to school. True, the law requiring the establishment of public schools in Ohio went into effect in 1825, but it was a good while after that before anything closely resembling the common school system of today had been evolved. But it should not be hastily concluded from this that education was entirely neglected. Parents who could afford it gave their children the advantage of good schools, as good as could be maintained, and among those who were very poor there was much self-sacrifice that the children might be educated and prepared for better success than their fathers and mothers had attained in the struggle of life. Some very poor boys in Ohio, in that period when there were no common schools, supplemented the little schooling they could obtain by fire-light reading, and so beginning, became in later years the great men of the State, and a few of them the greatest men of the nation. The difference, comparing the present with the early days in Williams county, is that now the schools are open without cost to boys and girls, without regard to their family importance or family wealth, and it is no disgrace to attend a free school. Then it was, and free schools were sometimes called "pauper" schools. So, it may be observed, we are more truly democratic today, in this, than the fathers were who considered themselves the special champions of human equality.

This clearly illustrates a point which is too often overlooked by those who pretend to think upon economic or social questions. The righteousness of the principle of human equality (not in mental or physical endowment, but as heirs to the blessings of Providence) is recognized inherently by all mankind. And we might say with considerable historical accuracy that there has never been a time when this principle was not advocated, more or less, and oftimes by those who in practice encouraged the enslavement of their fellow men. The individual is the creature of social conditions, and so long as conditions were such that only the poorest of the poor rejoiced over the introduction of the common school system, the more opulent ones, with a heartlessness which is too often a companion of wealth, sought to render the movement unpopular by stigmatizing those feeble institutions of learning. How great has been the change and how much we have improved in three-quarters of a century! With the record of the past before him, it would be a reckless man, it seems, who would attempt to limit the possibilities of the future. Socialism is, or should be, a growth, or advancement toward better social conditions; and those who meet the arguments of the over-zealous advocates of Universal Brotherhood with the time-worn expression: "It is impossible, Sir!" base their reasoning and conclusion (unconsciously, however,) upon premises that cannot be denied—their own unfitness for such an Utopian state. Altruism will not displace egoism as the result of a statutory enactment—the change must be evolutionary in its nature. And the common school system of America is a powerful factor in the onward and upward movement.

Probably the first school house built in Williams county was in St. Joseph township, in the old village of Denmark. It was built of logs and stood north of the public square. It has long since disappeared, as has also the village in which it was situated. Near it stood a large apple tree, which was said to have been planted by the Indians. The first term of school taught in it, and perhaps in the county, was by Rev. Israel Stoddard. This was as early as 1837 or 1838. Immediately after him John Cornell taught a term or two in the same house, and there were several other terms taught there before it was abandoned. The next school house built in St. Joseph township was about a mile north of Edgerton. This house remained standing for over a quarter of a century and was formerly used for election purposes. Shortly after this, or about the same time, school houses were built in the Carr neighborhood, in the east part of the township on the Bellefontaine road, and also one in the northwestern district of the township, on the same thoroughfare, the latter structure being for years known as the Wilson school house. In that neighborhood, however, several terms of school had been taught in rooms temporarily fitted up. In addition to Mr. Stoddard, Rev. Chambers, Mrs. P. E. Wilson, Mary Dillman and Marian Preston were among the first teachers in the township. A Mr. Southworth also taught there in the early days. He was eminent in scholarship, but unbalanced in mind, and is remembered by some as an old man, tall, spare, and with long gray hair and beard, traveling about continually, leaning on two staffs, carrying his budget upon his shoulders. He was a harmless old man, stopping at whatever house or place night overtook him. He would read or expound the Scriptures and pray with those who kept him, in apparent payment for his entertainment.

The first school houses were built of course in most instances of logs, and considering the abundance of timber, they could well have been constructed much larger and more commodious. A description of one of them would doubtless answer for all. The desks were placed around the wall and the seats were mostly made of basswood logs, split into halves. Upon these rude and uncomfortable seats, pupils of all ages and conditions were compelled to sit the six hours per day of school. These pioneer school houses were in strong contrast with the light, airy and commodious school buildings in every district in the county today; and yet it is a fact that as much solid work was done by pupils in those early school buildings as in the more elegant ones of the present. Wood was furnished by the patrons in proportion to the number of children sent. Often, it was drawn to the school house by the parents, in the log, and cut up by the pupils. Most of the pupils found their way through the woods to the school houses, roads being comparatively unknown. Along these school trails they went to school, and at night to spelling schools, lighting their way, in the night time, with torches made from the bark of hickory trees.

The old-fashioned spelling school is seldom now heard of, but it is doubtful if any modern entertainment can equal it in interest or in lasting benefit to the participants. The young people would go miles to attend one of these events. It was district against district, and it was wonderful how each would back their champions. The method was different at times in spelling down. Sometimes they would stand up and spell around and the last one up was the winner. Another method, and by some thought to be a more thorough test, was to stand up two and two, and the one who was able to spell the whole crowd down in that way would carry off the championship. Those friendly mental contests were often very exciting and continued until late into the night. Webster's Elementary spelling book was used for many years, and finally gave way to McGuffey's. That the pupils in our common schools then were much better spellers than now is beyond all question.

There was a general uniformity of school books throughout the county. McGuffey's readers, the old edition, were introduced into the schools at an early period. Previous to that, other books were used as readers, the New Testament being prominent among them. No uniformity in regard to arithmetics was practiced until the adoption of Ray's series, and these have been in quite general use since. His Third Part, or Practical, was the standard for many years, and there are many who think it has never been excelled for the purpose for which it was designed. No particular system of penmanship was ever taught, being as various and ever changing as were the teachers. Davies' algebra was at first used by the advanced pupils, but it was supplanted by Ray, who has ever since apparently held the ground.

The first school house in Bryan was a small log structure, situated on the south side of the square on lots near the corner of Butler and Lynn streets, and this was where A. J. Tressler taught the first public school. Previous to this, however, Miss Harriet Powell had taught in the same building a private school for the instruction of juvenile pupils. Subsequently, and in about 1845, a one-story frame school house was built on the lots at the northwest corner of Butler and Beech streets, near where now stands one of the public school buildings. In the contract made by Mr. Tressler to teach the Bryan school, he was allowed forty-five dollars for a three-months' term, the rate being fifteen dollars per month. The average attendance at his school was from twenty-five to thirty-five pupils. As late as 1862 there was but one public school building in Bryan, that one being near the Methodist church. It was without a bell or any school apparatus, and there was but three departments—High, Secondary and Primary. The number of enrolled pupils in that year, 1862, was 224. The Bryan Normal School was opened January 1, 1864, with an enrollment of forty pupils, and soon numbered 100; and its annual catalogue exhibited an enrollment of about two hundred, in which were instructed a large per cent of the leading educators and professional men for years, in this and adjoining counties. In 1874, C. W. Mykrantz, the principal of the Normal, was chosen superintendent of the public schools of Bryan, and continued to hold that position for years, thus uniting the two institutions. The old high school building was used for a brief time for an experiment in establishing a commercial college, but it failed for want of adequate support.

When the village of Stryker was laid out, there was an old log school house near by that was used for school purposes until the town, with the aid of the township, built a two-story frame house in 1856-57. School districts, however, were first organized in Springfield township in 1836, and as the township became better settled the districts were reorganized, and at present there are eight districts permanently established, exclusive of the Stryker district. The first school house was built in district No. 1, as the township was most thickly settled in that locality. The following named persons were among the early teachers of Springfield township: Jonathan B. Taylor, Orin G. Greely, Jane Washburn, Elizabeth Miller, Sarah C. Jones and L. W. Prettyman. In 1857, when the two-story frame school house was built in Stryker, the town seemed to be growing at a rapid rate and in a few years there was a demand for a larger building, which was constructed, and the village has since kept abreast of the times in the matter of public schools.

The first school house in Brady township was built near the site of West Unity, and the first school therein was taught by William L. Smith. A Dr. Veers taught the first school in the village, the sessions being held in a small log cabin. The first frame school house in West Unity was built on the south side of Jackson street, and the town has never been behind any of its competitors in the way of schools, the present school building being universally conceded to be among the finest in the county. The style of the architecture is modern, and it is a magnificent specimen of architectural skill. It is situated on a fine eminence in the southern part of the town and has two spacious front entrances, the principal materials used in the composition of the building being brick and stone. Brady township is divided into nine school districts, exclusive of West Unity. The first school taught in district No. 1 was in the year 1852. Julia M. Linsley was the first teacher and the term was thirteen weeks in length. In 1854, S. S. McPherson taught the first term in district No. 2, and the first school taught in No. 3 was in 1848, by Ann Shorthill. There are no records of districts Nos. 4, 5 and 7, but district No. 6 was organized and a school house erected in 1875, the first teacher being Abraham Crabb. The first school building in No. 8 was built in 1839, and the first teacher therein was Mary Shipman. The first school taught in district No. 9 was in 1851 or 1852, by L. M. Boothman, father of the late ex-Congressman Boothman.

The first school house in the vicinity of Melbern was built about the year 1837. It was a small log cabin, with a huge fire place in one end, which fed a tall chimney built on the outside. The desks were rough boards placed on wooden pins driven in the wall, and the seats were clapboards, with legs made of wooden poles. Old man Barney was the first teacher in this primitive school house, receiving his pay by subscription. Mr. Barney was an odd old fellow, with peculiar habits, but he was a good teacher, though his education at this day would be designated mediocre. This house was used about two years, when another log structure was built half a mile south of Melbern. Barney taught there also, as did Thomas Hill. This was used five or six years, when the third one for the neighborhood was erected at the geographical center of the township. This was also a log building, but about 1860 it was replaced by a neat frame house, which was used for many years and afterwards converted into a town hall. William Neavill, Edgar Hubbard, Sarah Washburn and J. B. Kimmell were early teachers in that neighborhood. It is said that Mr. Kimmell used to punish by tying boys and girls together and then standing them on the top of seats. The Pool school house, in the southwestern part of Center township, was built about 1844. It has been replaced by several others. Others were built in the northern part as early as 1840, and possibly as early as 1837 or 1838. The Yockey district had its first house about 1840. A log school cabin was built at Williams Center, on the hill south of the creek, about the year 1838, old man Barney, the Yankee, being one of the first teachers. The house was used until about 1844, when a small brick structure was erected. This building was used until some time in the late 50's, religious services also being held in it, public assemblages gathering there, and withal it was a building of great public utility. In about the year 1852, the Maumee Presbytery began the project of constructing a seminary at Williams Center. The citizens without regard to religious convictions contributed to the enterprise and a frame building in the western part of town was immediately erected. James Anderson, a man of fine character and culture, was given charge of the school and a fair attendance of pupils was secured. Mr. Anderson died in about three years and his brother David was then given charge of the school, but it finally was abandoned, principally because it was sought to teach the rigid orthodox tenets of the Presbyterian ritual, to the exclusion, it was thought by some, of more important subjects. The seminary was succeeded, in 1858, by a fine public graded school, with J. H. Omo as the first teacher. The sessions were held eight or nine months of the year, and from forty to seventy young ladies and gentlemen were in attendance. The school flourished exceedingly and many profitable sessions were held.

In about 1843, a small log school house was built in the northwestern part of Florence township. James Welch, an attorney from Bryan, was one of the first teachers. This house was used about ten years, when it was destroyed by fire and a small frame was built near there to take its place. Among the families that sent children to the old log house were those of George Perkey, S. Martin, Moses Thomas, Solomon Parker, James McClarren, and perhaps others. At New Berlin there was a log school house as early as 1846. Those who were interested in this school were the Arnolds, Edwin Wells, William Van Fossen, George White and others. It is said that the Arnolds had several terms of school before the first school house was built, the sessions being held in their cabins as early as 1843. In the summer of 1842, a term of school was taught in the cabin of Samuel Cain, near Union Corners, by Miss Olive Thompson. Cain had five or six children and Charles Allman sent two, and that probably constituted nearly the entire enrollment. The teacher was paid about one dollar a week and taught for two months. In about the year 1844, a school house was built near B. C. Pickle's, and Abigail Gordon is said to have been one of the first teachers in this house. It was used a few years, when a frame building was erected on land donated by Mr. Pickle, and among those who sent children early, aside from Mr. Pickle, were Samuel Cain and Levi Campbell. David Singer, Sr., had built a log cabin for his father, an old man who had come to the county with him, but the old gentleman did not remain long and the house was used for school and church purposes. The first term of school was taught there in about 1843, and about 1847 a small log school house was erected about half a mile east of the Singer Corners. Enoch Thomas and Theodore Beeso taught in the old Singer cabin and Hannah Miller taught the first school in the school house east of the corners. In about 1850 this large school district—which included about twelve square miles—was divided, and school houses were built a mile west of what is now Edon; a mile east of Edon; two miles northwest of Edon; two miles northeast of Edon; and school houses were also built in two or three places in the southern part of the township. Previous to the winter of 1874-75, the children of Edon went east and west one mile to the country schools, but, at the latter date, Solomon Metzler was employed to teach in a large room in the Sheline House, which he did to the satisfaction of the citizens. During the following summer Mrs. Hattie Miller taught a select school, and the succeeding winter William Holmes taught. In 1876 a two-story brick school house was erected in the village, and ever since Edon has enjoyed excellent educational facilities.

In the winter of 1839, Joel F. Pool taught the first school in Jefferson township in an old house on the land of Thomas Reid, now owned by Sylvester Shiffler. This was before the township was organized into school districts. In 1840, George W. Durbin taught the second school in a log school house near where the Center school house now stands. The logs were small and the door was made of clapboards. Some time during the winter, the pupils barred the teacher out and asked him to treat them to something. He procured a rail and with it broke open the door, when the pupils were glad to sue for terms. In 1841, the trustees divided the township into twelve school districts. In 1842, James Welch taught the first school in district No. 5, and in 1843 he taught the second school. In the summer of 1842, M. B. Plummer taught the first school in district No. 6, and in the winter of 1842-43, he taught the second term; in the winter of 1843-44 he taught the third term. In the winter of 1844-45, John W. Porter taught the fourth term. Seth B. Hyatt taught the first school in district No. 7, in the winter of 1843-44. Jacob Reid taught the first school in district No. 8, in 1845. J. Engle taught the first school in district No. 9, in the winter of 1845. Miss Brundydge taught the first school in district No. 3, Henry Sheets in No. 4, Lewis J. Baldwin in No. 1, and a Miss Powell in No. 2, and Annette Hart in district No. 12. From 1840 to 1846, the population of the township was small and frequently two districts were joined together for school purposes.

In the spring of 1841, the first school house in Bridgewater township was built in district No. 1, in the southeastern part of the township, on Anson Smith's farm, and during the summer of the same year Miss Mary McCrillis was employed to teach a term of three months. The house was a small, rude, log structure, with rough clapboard desks and seats, small windows, and a huge fire-place, which, when filled with burning limbs and logs, was the most cheerful feature in the room, excepting, perhaps, the handsome teacher. The summer was cold and wet and it was found necessary to keep a fire a portion of the time. Curtis Cogswell, Chandler Holt, Asa Smith, Anson Smith, Daniel Smith and Simeon Cobb sent children to Miss McCrillis. The young lady was handsome, lively, good company, and quite a flirt. It is told of her that a handsome stalwart young fellow conceived a passion for Miss McCrillis, and with her permission and sanction, "sat up" with her the greater portion of three nights during each week at the beginning of the term. In consequence of this habitual nocturnal wakefulness, the young lady was very drowsy the following days in the school room and would often fall asleep in her chair, only to awake with a start at some unusual noise occasioned by the mischief of her pupils. As a result she was discharged by the directors and a Miss Heritage was employed to teach the remainder of the term. Albert Sumner taught about two weeks in the same house in the winter of 1841-42, and Abigail Gordon the following summer. Joseph Rogers taught during the winter of 1844-45 in a new house in the same district and John Opdycke taught the following winter. Mary Clark was also an early teacher there. The early teachers in the Waterston district were Lucy Frisbee, Cornelia Squires, Jeremiah Rockwell and Angelica Gay. A log school building was erected in the Sumner neighborhood, in the northern part of the township, in about the year 1843, and Messrs. Sumner, Ayres, Willcox and Lindsay sent children to the school. Messrs. Van Court and Wittington built a frame school house at Bridgewater Center in 1848, and Sirena Lindsay was the first teacher. Bridgewater township has excellent schools.

The first school building in Millcreek township was erected on Section 26, but upon the erection of Fulton county that section was made a part of Gorham township, and the first school building in the present limits of Millcreek was upon Section 20, not far from the present village of Alvordton. The first school in the township was taught by Joseph Reasoner. In 1851, a school building was erected in district No. 1, and Miss Sarah McClean taught the first school there. School was commenced in district No. 2, in 1853, and No. 6, the same year, David Black being the first teacher in the latter district.

The first school house in Superior township was built of logs, erected in 1841, and located near the east line of the township, on George Wisman's farm. It was familiarly known as the "Bible School House." The second was built in 1845, and was situated near the central part of the township, in the midst of the locality known as the Shaull settlement. During two or three months of the summer of 1849, a young woman taught a school of youths in a shanty which stood within the present limits of Montpelier, and this was the first school undertaking on the ground where that thriving village is located. Not long after this a frame structure about 24x30 feet in size, was erected, and this answered the educational demands for a number of years. The building was afterwards purchased by the village and township, jointly, and was removed to the public square, where it was used as a place for holding township and village elections and other official meetings. In 1874, a new house, about 30x40 feet, was built, having two stories and a school room on each floor. A Mr. Collister, a young lawyer, at that time had management of the school, but only one of the rooms was required to accommodate himself and pupils. In the years of 1875 to 1878, inclusive, George W. Dustin had the management, with one assistant, and both floors were occupied. In 1878-79, Hiram H. Calvin, now a resident of Toledo, was superintendent and graded the schools, and in 1879-80, Ezra E. Bechtol had superintendence. The population had so increased by 1881, that it became necessary to erect another and larger building, and W. A. Saunders was made superintendent and principal. The rapid development of the town soon caused a pressing need of a more substantial and commodious structure for school purposes, and, in 1888, a magnificent brick building was erected. A short time since it was found necessary to build an addition of equal size, and Montpelier can boast, if she so desires, of having school facilities second to none. Mr. Saunders remained in charge of the schools from 1881 to 1886, and a few years later again assumed the management, which he has since retained. A large measure of the success which has attended Montpelier's educational institution is due to his ability as a teacher and superintendent.

In the early winter of 1841, a small log school house was erected in the northwest part of Northwest township, on land now owned by Isaac Parsons. Those interested in the construction were William H. Billings, Jonathan Butler, Thomas Whaley, John Whaley, T. F. Whaley, Adolphus Rogers, Hiram Russell, and possibly a few others who resided either in the township or in the adjoining states of Michigan or Indiana. The first teacher in this house, and, so far as known, in the township, was Miss Abigail Hills, who taught two or three months during the winter of 1841-42. She had enrolled about ten pupils, received her pay from the public school fund, and during the term was married to T. F. Whaley, which occurrence, however, did not stop school until the end of the term. This house was used by all the families in that part of Northwest township and by several in the adjoining states, until about 1846-47, when the district was divided and those families along the center of the western side of the township erected another log school building near where the residence of I. Cain now stands. The log house on Parson's farm was used a few years, perhaps until 1849, when a frame building was erected a short distance north of it, Mariah Marquart being the first teacher. The second school house in the Whaley neighborhood was built, about 1848, on the farm of T. F. Whaley, and it was a small frame structure. This house was used for educational purposes until about 1860, when another frame building, called the "Old Red School House," was erected on the old Whaley farm and used until 1878, when it was succeeded by a neat brick building. The first school house at Columbia was built in 1849 or 1850, and among the first teachers there was Rebecca Thomas, who taught during a few months of the summer of 1852. This lady afterwards became Mrs. Joseph W. Back, of Bridgewater township, and now lives with her son, Dr. Albert W. Back, of Montpelier. Mariah Kinney taught the next term at Columbia. Among the early teachers, also at that place, were Robert Carlin (for years superintendent of schools of Steuben county, Indiana), and wife, and Jefferson Friend and wife. The first school house in the northeastern part of the township was built north of Nettle Lake, about four rods west of the Winebrinerian church, not far from the year 1845. It was erected by Daniel Smith, William Stickney, Anson Smith, Thomas Knight, and perhaps two or three others. This house, a frame structure, was soon afterwards burned to the ground by a man, it was thought, who had been put out of the house for disorderly conduct while divine service was being held there. A second house was built about 1854, at "Kintightown," and it was used for school purposes continuously until 1876, when the present building, north of the cemetery, was erected. Other districts throughout the township were supplied with houses at a comparatively early date, and Northwest has been and is yet in the front rank, as regards her district schools.

In 1842, the first school house in Madison township—a rude log structure—was erected one mile east of Kunkle's Corners. The township was first divided into two school districts in April, 1843, but the log house mentioned above was erected before the township was organized, or before districts had been created, and was located where it would do the most good. In May, 1843, the pupils in this district—which became No. 1—were as follows: Celinda Angell, Orpha C. Angell, Alpheus Angell, Christina Barrett, Benjamin Barrett, Sally Ann Barrett, John Barrett, Mary Ann Barrett, Elijah Barrett, Charles, Hannah, Ray and Miles Woodworth, Mary Ann Young, Sarah Hunt, John Connelly, William Connelly, Calvin Connelly, Harrison Connelly, Jacob Reasoner and Elizabeth Reasoner. In March, 1844, three additional school districts were created, making then a total of five in the township. District No. 4 enumerated but five pupils, as follows: Jasper A. Best, Abner Johnson, Celestia Johnson, Nancy Johnson and Lucy M. Rogers. This was the first enrollment at what is now Pioneer, and from the above two enumerations it may be observed that, in 1844, there was quite a large settlement in the southeastern part of the township, a small one in the vicinity of Pioneer, while the other parts of the township were very meagerly settled. Alanson Smith and a Miss Angell were among the first teachers in the vicinity of Kunkle. District No. 4 (near Pioneer) had school in the cabin of Silander Johnson, as early as 1844, and several terms were taught there, though but few children were in the neighborhood. The first school house in Pioneer—a frame building—was erected in 1847, and was located in the vicinity of the old burying ground. The first teacher was Miss Rachel Baker, of Amboy, Mich., who taught a summer term of three months. A Miss Snow, of Bridgewater township, taught in the same house during the following summer. From this beginning, educational interests advanced at Pioneer until a high school department was created about thirty years ago, since which time many have entered life's battle with diplomas secured in the Pioneer schools.

Williams county now has in the township districts 111 school houses for elementary schools; in the separate districts 12 elementary schools and two high schools, making a grand total of 125 school buildings, with 176 rooms. The value of the school property in the township districts is $111,500; in the separate districts, $198,200, making an aggregate of $309,700. One hundred and seventy-eight teachers are employed, teaching 31 weeks in the township schools and 34 in the others, at salaries ranging from $32 to $82 per month. The enumeration of children of school age (between 6 and 21) is 6,808. The actual enrollment of pupils is 79 per cent of the enumeration in the township districts and 88 per cent in the separate districts. There are no high schools in the township districts, but there are fourteen in the separate districts. The average cost of tuition of the pupils enrolled is $9.53 in the elementary schools of the township districts, and $6.69 in the elementary and $22.81 in the high schools of the separate districts. The county received from the state, mainly from the common school fund, $14,125.06 for the support of education in 1904; from local taxation, $72,757.43; from the sale of bonds, $1,211.75; from all other sources, $13,525.01; making the total receipts but a little less than $102,000, to which should be added a balance on hand, September 1, 1903, of $93,682.92, swelling the aggregate funds to $195,302.17. Out of this there was paid $44,243.45 to teachers in elementary schools, and $9,123.50 to teachers in high schools; $1,679 for supervision, $57,664.26 on buildings and grounds, $6,628.51 on bonds and interest, and $21,108.91 for all other purposes, making an aggregate expenditure of $140,447.63. On September 1, 1904, the close of the fiscal year, the balance on hand was $54,854.54.

In the county there are the village and special districts of Alvordton, W. L. Fulton, superintendent, and school property valued at $6,500, annual expenditures, $2,455.68; Bryan, J. W. Wyandt, superintendent, property valued at $80,000, annual expenditures, $38,041.49; Edgerton, J. E. Hutchison, superintendent, property valued at $10,000, annual expenditures, $3,339.10; Edon, W. A. Estrich, superintendent, property valued at $1,000, annual expenditures, $5,304.84; Montpelier, W. A. Saunders, superintendent, property valued at $36,000, annual expenditures, $18,154.43; Pioneer, A. J. Brown, superintendent, property valued at $10,000, annual expenditures, $2,411.20; Stryker, G. W. Hurless, superintendent, property valued at $30,000, annual expenditures, $23,665.66; and West Unity, W. A. Salter, superintendent, property valued at $20,000, annual expenditures, $5,076.29.

The county examiners of teachers are O. E. Ewan, H. E. Umstead and A. J. Brown. The teachers have a county institute annually, and three additional county meetings.

CHAPTER XI

BENCH AND BAR

THE establishment of courts of justice and the installation of the necessary officials was naturally the first work attending the organization of Williams county. Under the old constitution of 1802, which was in vogue at the time of the organization, the Supreme Court had jurisdiction, both original and appellate, and, auxiliary to it, was the court of common pleas. On the adoption of the present constitution, March 10, 1851, the district, common pleas and county probate courts assumed jurisdiction.

During the period of the old constitution, the plan of having three citizens act as associate judges—theoretically supporting the legal subtleties of the president judge with their native shrewdness and knowledge of human nature—was continuously in operation. The associate judges in the Williams county common pleas court under the old regime were: Pierce Evans, 1824 to 1828; John Perkins, 1824 to 1828; Robert Shirley, 1824 to 1836; William Bowen, 1828 to 1829; Elisha Scribner, 1828 to 1829; Benjamin Leavell, 1829 to 1830; William Preston, 1829 to 1830; Foreman Evans, 1830 to 1837; Oliver Crane, 1830 to 1831; Payne C. Parker, 1831 to 1838; James M. Gillespie, 1836 to 1840; Charles C. Waterhouse, 1837 to 1839; Nathaniel B. Adams, 1838 to 1838 (a few months only); Lyman Langdon, 1838 to 1839; Jonas Colby, 1839 to 1842; Reuben B. James, 1840 to 1843; Willam D. Haymaker, 1841 to 1845; Jonathan B. Taylor, 1842 to 1845; Thomas Kent, 1843 to 1849; Payne C. Parker, 1845 to 1852; Abner Ayres, 1845 to 1852; Willam M. Stubbs, 1849 to 1852.

Pierce Evans, one of the first associate judges, was of Kentucky birth, and removed to the head of the rapids of the Maumee and resided there during the years 1822 and 1823, and then removed to a farm below Defiance, where he lived the remainder of his lfe.

John Perkins seems to have been a leading spirit among Williams county pioneers, and he was one of the earliest settlers of the Maumee valley, having removed from Ross county to Prairie du Masque, on the Maumee river, in 1816 or 1817, and from there to Brunersburg in 1819. He held the position of associate judge for four years, and, about October 1, 1833, removed from Brunersburg to where the village of Pulaski now stands.

Dr. Jonas Colby was a graduate of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, and removed to Defiance in 1832, where he continued to practice his profession for over forty years. Although he filled the judicial capacity for some time, his chief renown was as a physican, and the incidents of his early adventures in swimming over the swollen streams of the country to reach his patients would doubtless form a chapter of courage and peril that physicians of the present day are not under the necessity of encountering.

Dr. Thomas Kent was born in Loudoun county, Va., March 30, 1806, and was reared in Virginia until seventeen years of age, when he migrated to Ohio and engaged in carding and fulling in Columbiana county. In 1835 he began the study of medicine, in which he graduated in 1838. In 1839 he began practice in Lafayette (Pulaski) and there remained till Bryan was located in 1841, in the midst of the woods, when he located there and with the exception of a few years had his residence there until his death.

Abner Ayres was a cooper by trade and followed that occupation in Richland county until the fall of 1835, when he entered 160 acres of land in Brady township, this county, upon which he located and cleared it up, undergoing all the hardships of frontier life. In 1858 he went to West Unity, where he engaged for a time in the dry goods trade, and later in the boot and shoe business. During the later years of his life he lived in retirement at West Unity.

William M. Stubbs was one of the pioneers of Williams county, and was born, June 22, 1810, in Tompkins county, N. Y. He received the benefits of a common school education and assisted on the home farm until he became of age, coming to Williams county in 1836. He purchased 220 acres of unimproved land in Brady township, built a cabin and began the work of making a new home in what was then considered the wilderness of the west. He moved to Stryker in 1873 and spent the remainder of his life there, associated in the drug business with his son.

Under the constitution of 1802 the state was divided into three circuits, for each of which the legislature elected a president judge, and the associate judges, sitting with him, constituted the court of common pleas. The districts were changed from year to year and increased in number; and when Williams county was organized, in 1824, it became a part of the second circuit, which at that time included about one-fifth of the territory in Ohio. Having given a list of names of those who served as associate judges for Williams county under the old constitution, it may here be mentioned that the first circuit judge who presided after the organization of counties in Northwestern Ohio, was George Tod, father of the late governor, David Tod, and the second was Ebenezer Lane, who was subsequently elected supreme judge. Judge Tod's term of office had expired, however, before courts were held in Willams county, and therefore Judge Lane was the first president judge to officiate in the Williams county court of common pleas. The difficulties of riding such a large circuit on horseback may be imagined, and this may account for the fact that, although the first term of court was held at Defiance in May, 1824, and the second in October of the same year, Judge Lane did not put in an appearance until the May term of 1825. The associate justices for the county were Robert Shirley, John Perkins and Pierce Evans, and on May 5, 1824, these gentlemen met, produced their commissions and ordered the opening of the court. John Evans was clerk protempore, and William Preston sheriff.

After perfecting its organization the court adjourned for three days, and on May 8, reassembled and proceeded to dispatch business, concerning which we give the following record taken from the old journal, which is still preserved in the clerk of courts' office at Bryan:

"The court fixed the rate of Ferriage across the Maumee river and the Auglaize river at the following prices: For a footman, 6¼; man and horse, 18¾; loaded wagon and team, 1.00; a four-wheeled carriage, or empty wagon and team, 75; loaded cart and team, 50; for an empty cart and team, sled or sleigh and team, 37½; for every horse, mare, mule or ass, one year old or upwards, 6¼; for every head of meat cattle, 4; hogs and sheep per head, 2.

"The court grant a license to Benjamin Leavel to Keep a ferry across the Maumee and Auglaize at Defiance, upon his paying into the county treasury the sum of one dollar and fifty cents, for the term of one year.

"The Court grant Benjamin Leavel a license to vend merchandise at his residence in the town of Defiance for the term of one year upon paying into the county treasury ten dollars.

"The Court order that there shall be an election held according to law for two justices of the peace in each of the townships petitioned for, when granted, and that the clerk shall advertise said elections.

"The Court order that minutes be made that John Cannon this day declared upon his oath his intention to become a citizen of the United States.

"John Cannon came into court and declared upon his oath that it was his intention to become a citizen of the United States.

"The Court grant a license to George Lantz to keep a ferry across the Maumee river at the crossing of the State road at Defiance for the term of one year, upon his paying into the county treasury one dollar.

"John Evans, having been appointed Recorder for the county of Williams by the court of common pleas for said Williams county, the said John Evans this day gave bond in the sum of one thousand dollars, with Foreman Evans and Pierce Evans his sureties, approved of by the court and took the oath of office and the oath to support the constitution of the State of Ohio and that of the United States.

"And the court then adjourned without day."

The next term of court was begun and held "on Monday, the 25th day of October, A. D., 1824, at the court house in the town of Defiance (the temporary seat of Justice) in and for said county." A portion of the record of that term is here given:

"Charles W. Ewing, Esq., is appointed to prosecute the pleas of the state in behalf of the county.

"The sheriff returned the venire heretofore issued by the clerk of this court for a grand jury, who being called answered to their respective names, and thereupon the prosecuting attorney challenged the whole array, which challenge, upon consideration, is sustained by the court, and the whole array was sot aside. And thereupon the court ordered a new venire to issue to the sheriff, commanding him to summon fifteen good and lawful men of the county having the qualifications of electors, forthwith to appear before the court to serve as grand jurors; which venire being returned by the said sheriff, that he as commanded had summoned the following persons, who being called answered to their names."

Thereupon the following gentlemen entered upon their duties as the first grand jury that ever deliberated in Williams county:

William Hunter, George Lantz, John Hilton, Foreman Evans, Montgomery Evans, Thomas Driver, Benjamin Mulican, James Shirley, Jonathan Merrithew, Timothy S. Smith, Arthur Burrows, Thomas Warren, Theophilus Hilton, Hugh Evans, Daniel Brainard. Timothy S. Smith was chosen as foreman and they retired to the room assigned them. In due course of time the grand jury returned into court and presented bills of indictment against Enoch Buck, for keeping a ferry on the Maumee river without a license, and Benjamin Leavell for keeping a ferry across the Auglaize without a license. Leavell pleaded guilty and was fined one dollar and costs, but the indictment against Buck was quashed.

The first cases of record appear in the proceedings of this October term of court—Timothy S. Smith in certiorari vs. Montgomery Evans; Hiram P. Barlow, adminstrator of James Carlin, deceased, vs. James Shirley, appeal; and Timothy S. Smith, county auditor vs. Elias Shirley, lister. The first case was dismissed because the writ was issued without an order from one of the judges; the second was continued, and the third was discontinued and judgment rendered against plaintiff for costs.

At this term of court, Thomas W. Powell, father of Thomas E. Powell—Democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, in 1887—produced his certificate of admission to the bar and was enrolled as an attorney and counsellor of the court. Charles W. Ewing was remembered by being allowed ten dollars for services as prosecuting attorney.

At the May term of court, 1825, Hon. Ebenezer Lane, president judge, made his first appearance on the bench in Williams county, and the first petit jury was also empanelled, composed of the following citizens: James Hunter, Jacob Platter, John Cannon, Arthur Burrows, John Butler, Abraham Landis, Silas McClish, Thomas B. Quick, Batset Bellair, George Lantz, Robert Wasson and Isaac Woodcock. The cause—which was the first one given to a jury for decision in common pleas court of Willams county—was entitled, Hiram P. Barlow, administrator of James Carlin, deceased, vs. James Shirley; and the result is given in the record as follows: "Who [the jury] being duly returned, tried, empannelled and sworn well and truly to try the issue joined between the parties, after hearing the proofs and allegations of the parties on their oaths aforesaid, do say that the said defendant is guilty in the manner and form as the said plaintiff has thereof charged him in his declaration, and assess the damages of the said plaintiff at eighteen dollars."

As an index to the salaries paid in those days to the gentlemen who enjoyed the emoluments of office, it is recorded in the court journal that at this May term of court (1825) it was ordered that the prosecuting attorney be paid a yearly salary of fifty dollars, the clerk, twenty dollars for the same length of time, and the sheriff fifteen dollars. The incumbents of those positions were not "gourmandizers of the pap" to any great extent.

From 1824 to 1830 the president judge of the second circuit, including Williams county, as has been stated, was Ebenezer Lane of Huron county. Judge Lane was succeeded by Judge David Higgins, who was one of the noted attorneys of Northwestern Ohio. He presided until 1838, and by the legislature of 1837-38, Ozias Bowen was elected as his successor. At the session of the general assembly, in 1838-39, an act was passed creating the Thirteenth Judicial circuit, and the following counties were embraced therein: Lucas, Wood, Henry, Williams, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Allen, Hardin and Hancock. Under the act creating this circuit, Emery D. Potter was elected, in February, 1839, presiding judge, and held the office until the winter of 1844, when he resigned and took the seat in congress, to which he had been elected in October of the preceding year. He was succeeded on the bench by Hon. Myron H. Tilden, who continued in office about eighteen months, when he also resigned. On the 19th of February, 1845, the Sixteenth judicial circuit, embracing the counties of Shelby, Mercer, Allen, Hardin, Hancock, Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams, was erected, and Patrick G. Goode, of Sidney, was elected presiding judge. In 1849, George B. Way was elected judge, in which position he served until the adoption of the new constitution in 1851.

Patrick G. Goode was of Irish descent and was one of the early settlers in Northwestern Ohio, where he reached prominence as a legislator, lawyer and jurist. He was elected to the Thirty-second general assembly in 1833, to represent the district of which Williams county was a part, and was re-elected to the same position in 1834. In 1836 he was elected to the Twenty-fifth congress from the Third district, embracing, among others, Williams county. In 1838 he was elected to the Twenty-sixth, and in 1840 to the Twenty-seventh congress from the same district. He was a Democrat in politics and an able advocate of the policy of that party, both in and out of congress. He was born in Prince Edward county, Virginia, May 10, 1798, took part in the war of 1812 as a soldier, and died in Sidney, Ohio, October 7, 1862.

The Supreme Court had its origin in the constitution of 1802, which provided for three members, with permission to the legislature to add another. This court was required to meet once a year in each county, a regulation that would be preposterous in 1905; but in 1802 with a few widely scattered counties, that was obviously the most convenient way of serving the people and the ends of justice. Until 1851, this custom of an annual session of the supreme court continued, and consequently some great lawyers of Ohio have presided in Williams county. The supreme court had both original and appellate jurisdiction and important criminal cases were usually tried before it. Thus until 1851, the supreme judges were peripatetic, holding court in all the counties. Perhaps the most important session of the supreme court that was ever held in Williams county, was the one incident to the arraignment, trial and conviction of Andrew F. Tyler, for the murder of the little boy, David Schamp, in Jefferson township. Tyler elected to be tried in the Supreme court. Peter Hitchcock presided at the trial, and the prosecuting attorney, Joshua Dobbs, was assisted by Charles Case, the defense being conducted by Schuyler E. Blakeslee. The evidence was conclusive and the jury promptly returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Judge Hitchcock sentenced Tyler to death, by hanging, and designated Friday, the twenty-sixth day of January, 1849, as the day upon which the execution should take place. The sentence of the law was duly carried out at the proper time by Daniel Langel, the sheriff. Heckerthorn, who was also charged with the same crime, was tried at the November term of the common pleas court in 1849, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, but the Governor of Ohio commuted the sentence to life imprisonment.

The constitution adopted in 1851 provided for a supreme court, such as the people are now familiar with, its duties confined to hearing appeals from lower courts. The state was divided into nine common pleas districts, and associate judges were abolished. Each district was subdivided into three parts, in each of which the people should elect a judge of the court of common pleas. Thus there were at least three common pleas judges to each of the nine districts. One or more of the judges held a common pleas court in each county, and the three judges of the district together constituted a district court that succeeded to the functions of the old supreme court in their respective counties and the new common pleas court, except in probate jurisdiction, for which probate judges were provided, to be elected, one in each county. Under this new system Williams county was a part of the second subdivision of the Third circuit, and it has continued in that classification. But the subdivision, at first composed of Mercer, Van Wert, Putnam, Paulding, Defiance, Williams, Henry and Fulton, now includes Defiance, Fulton Paulding, Van Wert and Williams.

The first three judges of the Third district, beginning in February, 1852, were Lawrence Hall, Benjamin F. Metcalf and John M. Palmer. Judge Palmer was succeeded in 1857 by Alexander S. Latty, of Defiance. The latter was re-elected in 1861, and again in 1866 and 1871, the subdivision at this time, under the act of 1868, being composed of the counties of Paulding, Defiance, Williams, Fulton and Henry. Judge Latty retired from the bench in 1877, after a career, which in length of service has no equal in Northwestern Ohio. He was succeeded by Selwyn N. Owen, of Bryan.

Judge Selwyn N. Owen was the first resident of Williams county to be elevated to the position of common pleas judge and the only one as yet that has been elected a member of the supreme court of the State of Ohio. He is a native of Steuben county, New York, his birth occurring, July 5, 1836. He was reared to manhood in Huron and Seneca counties, Ohio, and received a good common school and academic education. For four years he was a student at the Norwalk Institute, paying for his tuition and books by acting as janitor. He finished his literary education by an elective course at Antioch college. The winter of 1856-57, he was principal of a seminary in Clark county, Ky., succeeding which he came to Norwalk and began the study of law with Kennan & Stewart, attorneys of that place. He attended the Cincinnati Law School, beginning in 1861, and graduated in 1862. Mr. Owen began his career as an attorney at Fremont, Ohio, but remained there only until November, 1863, when he came to Bryan and engaged actively in law pursuits. He is a Democrat in politics, and, in 1876, was elected without opposition judge of the Common Pleas Court for the second subdivision of the Third Judicial district. He served his first term of five years, and during that time a rearrangement of the subdivisions was made. But in 1881, he was re-elected in the new sub-divison, comprising Paulding, Defiance and Williams counties. In 1883 he was nominated by the Democratic state convention for member of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and was chosen by a good majority at the ensuing election. He served a full term of six years on the Supreme Bench, the last year as Chief Justice, ex-officio, but he declined a renomination, and at the end of his term located in Columbus, where he has since pursued the practice of law.

Judge Owen was succeeded as judge of the Court of Common Pleas by Charles A. Bowersox, of Bryan, who served from November, 1883, to November, 1884. Judge Bowersox was born in St. Joseph township, Williams county, October 16, 1846, and was graduated at Otterbein University in 1874. He served three years as Probate Judge, by election in 1875, during which time he engaged in the study of law. He was elected to the State Legislature in the fall of 1881, and served one term. Upon Judge Owen's election to the supreme bench he was appointed by Governor Foster to fill the vacancy.

At the October election, in 1884, Silas T. Sutphen, of Defiance, was elected for the remainder of Judge Owen's unexpired term, and was re-elected for the full term in 1886. In 1891, he was again a candidate for the position, and upon the face of the returns was elected; but upon a contest tried before the Ohio State Senate, he was deprived of the position and the certificate of election was given to his competitor, Wilson H. Snook, of Paulding. In 1896, Mr. Snook was again a candidate for election, but was defeated by William H. Hubbard, of Defiance, who was re-elected, in 1901, and is the present incumbent. The legislature of 1904 changed the sub-divisions of this judicial district, adding the counties of Fulton and Van Wert to Defiance, Paulding and Williams, and also increased the number of judges to three in this subdivision. At the election of 1904, Edward S. Matthias, of Van Wert, and John M. Killits, of Bryan, were the successful candidates for the newly created judgeships.

John Milton Killits, Williams county's representative on the Common Pleas Bench, is the son of Andrew W. Killits, long a prominent citizen of Williams county. Judge Killits was born at Lithopolis, Ohio, October 7, 1858, and was educated in the schools of Bryan and at Williams college, in Massachusetts. After graduating at the Columbia Law School, Washington, D. C., in 1886, he practiced in Bryan until his elevation to the Common Pleas bench in February, 1905. In 1892 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Williams county and served two terms.

In 1852, an act of the legislature divided the state into five circuits for the district court, and a judge of the Supreme Court was required to preside, and the District Court was made a Court of Appeals from the Common Pleas Court. This practice continued until the Supreme Judges were relieved of this duty, in 1865, after which the Common Pleas Judges of the district, sitting as a District Court, were authorized to consider appeals from their own judgments. This undesirable condition of things was removed in 1883, by the adoption of an amendment to the constitution, authorizing the creation of a Circuit Court and abolishing the District Court, but leaving the Common Pleas Judges and courts undisturbed. Three Circuit Judges were chosen at the next election in each circuit, and for the Sixth circuit, which includes Williams county, Charles S. Bentley was one of those elected in the fall of 1887. Judge Bentley is a native of Ohio. He was educated in the common schools, Hiram college, and Hillsdale, Mich., college, and in early manhood engaged in the wholesale lumber business at Allegan, Mich. He employed his spare time in the study of law, and then read for a time in the office of Hon. D. Cadwell, of Cleveland. He was admitted to the bar in 1872, came to Bryan in February, 1873, and was elected prosecuting attorney by the Republicans in 1875. He became prominent as a trial lawyer and took an important part in several noted cases. His service as judge of the circuit court extended from February 9, 1888, to February 8, 1895. He is now practicing law in Cleveland.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

Attorneys were appointed by the court to prosecute actions in behalf of the state in the early days, until 1835; since then they have been elected. Following is a list of those who have held this office, which is often the beginning of a distinguished career in the law: 1824, Charles W. Ewing; 1825, Rodolphus Dickinson; 1826, James L. Gage; 1828, Henry Cooper and Josiah Robinson; 1829, Josiah Robinson and Henry Cooper; 1830, Rodolphus Dickinson; 1831, Amos Evans; 1836, Curtis Bates; 1837, Amos Evans; 1839, William C. Holgate; 1842, Erastus H. Leland; 1844, Peter Snook; 1845, Erastus H. Leland; 1846, Joshua Dobbs; 1848, Sanders M. Huyck; 1850, Joshua Dobbs; 1852, John A. Simon; 1854, Meredith R. Willett; 1857, William Letcher; 1858, Cunningham R. Scott; 1860, John S. Cannon; 1864, Charles W. Mykrantz; 1868, William O. Johnston; 1872, Philetus Smith; 1874, Schuyler E. Blakeslee; 1876, Charles S. Bentley; 1878, Robert A. Scott; 1880, Charles W. Pitcairn; 1881, George Strayer; 1885, Robert A. Scott; 1886, Thomas Emery; 1892, John M. Killits; 1898, E. C. Peck (appointed); 1899, James D. Hill; 1902, Edward Gaudern.

Some of these names have already been mentioned biographically on pages that precede this chapter. Charles W. Ewing was a son of Col. Alexander Ewing, one of the pioneers of the Maumee valley; was born at Big Tree, Monroe county, now in the state of Michigan; practiced law at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and became president judge of the Eighth judicial circuit of that state.

Rodolphus Dickinson was one of the prominent citizens of Northwestern Ohio for many years, and was largely interested in the construction of the canal system of the state and the management of the board of public works. He was born in Massachusetts, in 1789; was elected to the Thirtieth Congress as a Democrat in 1846, from the Sixth Ohio district, and was re-elected in 1848. He died the year following his second election.

Johann Adam Simon was born in Kindenheim, Rhein Bavaria, Germany, May 20, 1819. He removed with his parents, in 1835, to Einselthum, a few miles from his birth place, where he resided until April, 1841, when he bade farewell to friends and his home in the beautiful valley of the Rhine and started for America. Landing in New York, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and remained there until 1843. He then settled in Florence township, Williams county, and engaged in clearing up and tilling a farm in the woods, suffering all the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life, until 1852, when he removed to Bryan. Between the ages of six and fourteen years he received that thorough mental training which the educational system of Germany afforded for all, and being fitted with a retentive memory and an aptness for acquiring knowledge, he was always classed with those older than himself, and at the age of twelve years was selected by his teacher as the pupil most competent to assist in hearing recitations. The study of law was pursued with that persistent energy that characterized all his undertakings through life. While the general farm work occupied the hours of the day, those of the evening and far into the night were devoted to the study, until 1849, when he was admitted to the bar at Napoleon, Ohio, and commenced the practice of his profession, which he continued until within a few years of his death. Two years later he was elected prosecuting attorney of Williams county. He died February 22, 1885.

Philetus Smith is a native of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, his birth occurring December 25, 1842. His branch of the Smith family is of English descent, and his genealogy is traced back to 1685, when his first American ancestor, with the religious sect known as Quakers, emigrated with William Penn to America. The descendants in this country have been leading citizens, and former United States Senator Oliver H. Smith, of Indiana, was a brother of Philetus Smith's father. Philetus Smith was reared, until thirteen years old, in Cuyahoga county, and then moved to Michigan with his parents. He received a common school education and for six years taught public school. He began the study of law in 1863, but did not make it a specialty until three years later. He came to Williams county in 1868, and in 1869, was admitted to the bar. He was elected prosecuting attorney in 1871, and served one term of two years. He also filled the position of mayor of Bryan for some time. In 1890 he removed to Chicago and has since been engaged in law practice there.

Robert A. Scott was born in Fulton county, Ohio, August 7, 1854. When he was about one year old his parents came to Bryan, and about 1857 moved to Center township, where he was reared on a farm and educated. During the winters of 1871-72 and 1872-73, he taught school in this county, and in 1874 began the study of law in the office of Pratt & Bentley; during the sessions of 1874-75, he also attended the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and received his degree of L.L.D. in the spring of 1876. He remained in the office of Pratt & Bentley that fall, and in November of the same year formed a partnership with Judge Leidigh. In 1877 he was elected by the Democracy to the office of prosecuting attorney, his competitor being Charles S. Bentley, his former preceptor. He served two years to the entire satisfaction of his constituents and was again nominated for the office, but was defeated, although running ahead of his ticket, by a Republican county majority. In 1884, he was again nominated for the same office and was elected by a large majority, but before the expiration of his term he was stricken with illness and died in Bryan, September 7, 1886.

Charles W. Pitcairn is a native of New Lisbon, Columbiana county, Ohio, and was born March 23, 1849. He was reared in his native county and received a fair education. When in his sixteenth year he enlisted as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer infantry, and served one year in the army in the Shenandoah valley. After his discharge he returned home and engaged in clerking. In 1870 he began the study of law and attended the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, the winter of 1872-73, being admitted to the bar on April 1, 1874. In December, 1874, he came to Bryan and began practicing his profession, which he followed until August, 1881, when he discontinued practicing and accepted the secretaryship and treasurership of the Morrison & Fay Manufacturing Company, of which he was a stock owner. A Republican in politics, he served two years as mayor of Bryan, by election in 1878. He was elected prosecuting attorney in 1879, but resigned in the fall of 1881, to fill the position mentioned above. In October, 1882, he removed to Iowa and has since resided there.

George Strayer was born, February 15, 1853, in Superior township. He was reared there, received a fair education and for five years traveled through Michigan engaged in various pursuits. He taught two terms of public school in the winters of 1877-78 and 1878-79, and began reading law in August, 1878, under Hon. S. E. Blakeslee, of Bryan. In October, 1879, he attended the law school of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and continued there six months. On March 17, 1880, he passed an examination at Columbus, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar, immediately afterward opening an office in Montpelier. In August of the same year, he formed a partnership with William O. Johnston, which continued until September, 1881. In May, 1881, he received the Republican nomination for prosecuting attorney of Williams county, and, in October of the same year, was elected. Owing to the resignation of the man he was to succeed, he received the appointment and immediately entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office, forming a partnership with Philetus Smith. He was not nominated for a second term, and, in the autumn of 1884, he purchased the Montpelier Enterprise, which he conducted until January, 1889. He then managed a stave factory and was connected with other enterprises at Montpelier until 1892, when he removed to Ashley, Indiana, and began the publication of the Ashley Times, which he conducted until his death in the fall of 1903.

THE PROBATE COURT.

This court was created by the constitution of 1851, with the provision that one judge of the same should be elected in each county. It is an office peculiarly local and intimately associated with the affairs of all the people, and has been filled by some of our best citizens. Joshua Dobbs, the first judge elected, was one of the early settlers of Williams county. He probably came here in 1843-44 and opened a law office, for his name first appeared on the common pleas bar docket in 1844. He was elected prosecuting attorney in 1845 and again in 1849, serving two terms. During his service as such Daniel Heckerthorn and Andrew Tyler were tried for murder of the lad, David Schamp. Mr. Dobbs was elected probate judge in 1851 and re-elected in 1854. In those days he was an active politician and to promote the success of his party he started, in 1852, a Democratic paper at Montpelier, with Van B. Shouf as printer and manager. Its career was a brief one, as was also the life of the Fountain City News, which he started at Bryan January 12, 1855. After the expiration of his second term as probate judge he retired from public life and measurably from politics, and soon afterward engaged in mercantile pursuits, which he continued until about 1865, when he sold his interests in Bryan and removed to Edgerton, and subsequently to Montgomery, Michigan. He died at the latter place in April, 1891.

Meredith R. Willett was elected in 1857. His successor, Isaac R. Sherwood, resigned to enlist in the Union Army, where he earned the brevet of brigadier-general. After the resignation of General Sherwood, William A. Hunter filled the vacancy until the fall election of 1862, when William H. Ogden was elected for the unexpired term. At the fall election of 1863, Alexander Bodel was elected, but resigned before the expiration of his term. He was one of the early pioneers of Williams county, having removed here with his father in 1837. At that time the county was almost an unbroken wilderness. The following year his father died, leaving him a mere boy to support his mother and two sisters, younger than himself, with nothing but his own hands and persevering will, in the midst of a dense forest. This task he performed with credit to himself and satisfaction to his family, laboring constantly during the day and studying his books generally until midnight by the light of the fire. By steady perseverence in this way he cleared up his farm and obtained a good education without even the advantages of a common school. This continued labor and exposure brought on disease, and before he reached middle life his constitution was gone. In 1863 he was elected probate judge of Williams county, discharging the duties of that office with honor and ability until his fast declining health compelled him to resign his office in the following year. His health continued to fail under the influence of that slow but sure disease of the lungs until his death, October 18, 1872.

Mr. Bodel was succeeded, August 26, 1864, by George E. Long, a native of Donegal county, Ireland, son of William Long, a pioneer of 1849, and brother of Dr. J. W. Long, of Bryan. Judge Long was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute, of Cincinnati, and began the practice of his profession in 1855. He held the office of probate judge until 1870, two terms.

The judge of probate in 1870-76 was John W. Leidigh, who was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1840, son of David Leidigh, of German descent. In the Civil war he made a good record and had the rank of second lieutenant. He was elected judge in 1869, and held the office for six years. In the spring of

1893, he removed to Mansfield, where he is now engaged in the legal profession.

Charles A. Bowersox, born in St. Joseph township in 1846, served as judge during the next term of three years, 1876-79, and was succeeded by Martin Perky, who was also a native of the Keystone state. He was elected probate judge in 1878, 1881 and 1884. He held the judgeship for three terms, and after him George Rings served two terms, 1888-94. Judge Rings was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1834, son of John Rings, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Williams county in 1835. Judge Rings was succeeded in office by W. C. Coslet, 1894-97, and he in turn by Charles M. Miller, who served from 1897 to 1900, and the present incumbent, John H. Schrider, entered upon the duties of the office in February, 1900. At the election of 1905, Francis M. Frazier was elected probate judge and will assume the duties of the position in February, 1906.

CLERKS OF THE COURTS.

John Evans, as noted previously, was the first clerk of the court of common pleas in 1824, and continued in the office until November, 1837, when George T. Hickcox succeeded him, but held office less than one year, when he died, and William C. Holgate was chosen by the common pleas court, and began a term that continued only until April, 1839. William C. Holgate was a very prominent man in the early days of Williams county, but his field was mainly confined to the law. He was born at Burlington, Vermont, November 23, 1814, and when twenty years old came into the Maumee valley, settling at Defiance a couple of years later. The successors of Evans, Hickcox and Holgate, have been the following, all men of ability and prominence: 1839, Edwin Phelps; 1845, Levi Colby; 1846, John Paul; 1852, Walter Caldwell; 1855, William A. Stevens; 1858, Jacob Youse; 1864, Milton B. Plummer; 1867, Lewis E. Brewster; 1876, Ezra E. Bechtol; 1879, William H. Chilcote; 1882, Ezra E. Bechtol; 1885, William W. Darby; 1891, Hugh G. Monen; 1894, Justus E. Alvord; 1897, John Gearhart; 1900, Abraham L. Brace; 1906, William E. Stough.

SHERIFFS.

The first executive officer of the courts of Williams county was William Preston, one of the prominent men of the Maumee valley in the early days. He settled at Defiance, before the organization of Williams county, and after serving as the first sheriff and in other positions of trust, he was elected, in 1829, associate justice of the common pleas court and then was elected sheriff again. He died in 1838. The successors to Preston, with the years of their accession to office, are as follows: 1829, Isaac Hull; 1830, William Preston; 1836, Alfred Purcell; 1837, Uriah E. Drake; 1838, Jonathan B. Taylor; 1839, William K. Daggett; 1839, John Drake; 1844, James M.

Gillespie; 1849, Daniel Langel; 1852, Thomas Shorthill; 1856, John Bell; 1860, Hiram Byers; 1864, William S. Lewis; 1868, Edwin J. Evans; 1872, Henry L. Walker; 1874, William W. Darby; 1878, George C. Kober; 1882, Jacob A. Dorshimer; 1884, George W. McGrew; 1888, Miller W. Burgoyne; 1892, John C. Bailey; 1896, Albro Wirick; 1900, Bert Youse; 1904, Bert W. Ames, present incumbent.

During Langel's term as sheriff he executed the sentence of the law on Andrew Tyler, whose crime is told of elsewhere. Daniel Langel was one of the pioneers, having immigrated to the county in 1841, when it was a vast wilderness, and he encountered the rough toil and trials incident to a new country. He died on April 7, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

Horace Sessions was the first lawyer who permanently established himself in the practice in Williams county. He located at Defiance, in 1833, and prior to that date the legal business of the county had been attended to by visiting attorneys who "rode the circuit" with the presiding judge. By 1837, however, Mr. Sessions had two associates in the persons of William Seemans and Curtis Bates, and by 1838 Amos Evans had been added to the list. It is useless to attempt a complete roster of those who have at different times "swung their signs to the breezes" as resident attorneys in Williams county, but the following is thought to contain the names of the more prominent ones, and the years given represent about the dates of their first appearance: 1840, John B. Seemans, Edwin Phelps, W. C. Holgate; 1841, E. H. Leland; 1842, William Carter, George B. Evans, George L. Higgins; 1844, Schuyler E. Blakeslee, Charles Case, Edward Foster, Joshua Dobbs, S. M. Huyck and James Welsh; 1846, John Paul, J. A. Simon, G. H. Wilson, John K. Morrow, S. A. Treat, Albert M. Pratt and Daniel McKinley; 1849, Abijah Miller and Jared C. Parker.

The foregoing names represent the larger number of the earlier Williams county lawyers. At a later date, however, there have been Charles S. Bentley, John W. Leidigh, Robert A. Scott, Charles A. Bowersox, Thomas Emery, Melvin M. Boothman, Philetus Smith. George Strayer, James H. Serrels, William O. Johnston, Meredith R. Willett, H. Preusser, B. E. Sheldon, Solomon Johnson, Charles W. Pitcairn, Oscar C. Beechler, A. D. Austin, Peter Friend, George E. Coy, Hiram H. Calvin, John M. Caulkins, C. P. Winbigler and Charles B. Jones. These have not all engaged actively in the practice but the majority of them have. In 1905, the following resident attorneys have their names printed in the bar docket of the court of common pleas:

Charles A. Bowersox, Oscar C. Beechler, John M. Calkins, Edward Gaudern, Robert P. Hays, Joseph D. Hill, Solomon Johnson, S. A. Justice, E. H. Lanphere, J. V. Maier, C. L. Newcomer, Isaiah W. Pressler, Elwin C. Peck, George C. Rings, Carleton S. Roe, Reuben L. Starr, Chas. E. Scott, D. A. Webster and John B. White.

CHAPTER XII

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

DURING the early days in Williams county the settlers suffered considerably from illness. Especially was this true of the year 1838, which is remembered throughout the entire Lake region and the Ohio Valley as "the terribly sickly season;" and for many years thereafter the people suffered more or less in the summer and autumn of every year. The settlers of the county, and in particular those that made their homes in the rich bottoms of the various water-courses, were terribly afflicted with fevers and racked with chills.

The fever was so continuous throughout Ohio in those days, and so frightful were its effects, that it is remarkable that the settlers were heroic enough to remain in the new country. They stayed partly through grim determination, partly through the natural indisposition to move backward, partly through love of the beautiful country, and largely through that hope which is said to spring eternal, doubtless with accuracy, for it was necessary for it to spring eternally in the breasts of the pioneers to cheer them in their toil and suffering.

Rich and productive as the lands were, there was a terrible drawback to their attraction in the shape of chills and fevers. So prevalent was this disease in some localities that not a cabin or a family escaped for a single year; and it sometimes happened that there would not be a single well member to furnish drink to the others. It is told that in such cases buckets would be filled in the morning by those most able and placed in some accessible place so that when the shakes came on each could help himself or herself. Had there been any seemingly possible way of getting back to the old settlements from which these adventurers had come, most, if not all, would have left the rich Maumee bottoms with their shakes and fevers; but so it was, there were no railroads or even wagon roads, on which they could convey their disheartened skeletons back to their old homesteads with their pure springs and health restoring associations. At the time of the year when a tedious land or water trip could be made, there were enough of each family sick to prevent any preparatory arrangements for such a return; while in winter there were more obstacles in the way than the sickness of summer. Thus held not only by the charms of the scenery and the productiveness of the soil, but by the sterner realities of shakes and burning fever, few came that ever returned, and every year brought new neighbors.

These fevers are described at some length by Dr. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, in his great work on the Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America, published in 1850. They were called by various names, autumnal, bilious, intermittent, remittent, congestive, miasmatic, malarial, marsh, malignant, chill fever, ague, fever'n'ague, dumb ague, and Dr. Drake himself preferred to call them autumnal fevers. He was disposed to ascribe their origin to what he called a "vegeto-animalcular cause," meaning that the people were infected by organisms that were bred in decaying vegetation, and he pointed out that the disease could not be caused by gases which should have an immediate effect, but must be due to some organism that had a regular period of incubation, because people were not taken with the fevers until some time after the date of supposed infection. This he stated, not in this language, which is more in the line of modern expression, but to the same effect, demonstrating a remarkable insight into the operations of nature. It is believed now that the malarial infection, whatever its original source, is spread by mosquitoes, but this the doctors and sufferers did not suspect, and if they had, it would have done them little good, so numerous were the insect pests, and so expensive would have been any adequate attempt to suppress them. At the time when people were exterminating bears, panthers and vast forests, there was no time to make war on such small and ubiquitous things as mosquitoes.

In combatting the fever and the chills the doctors depended on Peruvian bark, quinine and calomel in heroic doses. Generally the unfortunate victim was first bled, then large doses of calomel were given, and the patient was cautioned to abstain from any acid food or he might loose his teeth, and the calomel was followed by quinine. Dr. Drake reported a case in southern practice where a patient was given calomel for malarial fever in increasing doses until he took several ounces a day, and in a short time an entire pound of the drug was put in him. The fate of the unfortunate creature is not mentioned. Another patient was given six hundred grains of compound of aloes, rhubarb and calomel in equal quantities for six days consecutively. There were other remedies. Dr. Joshua Martin, of Xenia, knew of a case where the chills were permanently cured in a small boy by standing him on his head at the access of the fit. "In many cases," said Drake, "the recurrence has been arrested by means which acted entirely on the imagination and feelings. Of this kind are very loathsome potions, which the patients have swallowed with disgust and different charms or incantations, which arouse powerful emotions that change the innervation and destroy the habit of recurrence." There were some very remarkable cases of recurrence of the disease in various forms. One man was subject to monthly attacks of vertigo and loss of consciousness. When medicine had checked this, the trouble soon returned with intervals of twenty-one days, and afterward for five years with periods of sixteen days.

The chills and fever, while not so immediately fatal in ordinary years as yellow fever, from which Ohio has fortunately been spared, was worse in its effects. If a man recovered from yellow fever, he was none the worse for it, sometimes better; but the victim of fever and chills often suffered all the rest of his life with neuralgia, liver or spleen disease, dyspepsia or diarrhoea. At times, however, the malarial fevers assumed a malignant form and it was certain death unless the doctor was near at hand and happened to check the paroxysms.

It was this disease, common in every part of Ohio, that the pioneer doctors had to contend with. They battled nobly, some of them falling victims to their antagonist, and it cannot be doubted that they performed a great work in alleviating the sufferings of humanity, and encouraging the pioneers in the work of overcoming the evils of a new country. In time, with drainage and extensive cultivation of the soil, the dangerous conditions passed away and Williams county is now as healthy as any of those older regions to which the settlers longed to return in the days when they were shaking with ague.

Among the early physicians in St. Joseph township were J. S. Stough, who lived just north of the present site of Edgerton and practiced medicine there for a number of years. He afterwards removed to Waterloo, Indiana. Dr. Barkdol was also one of the first physicians and had a fine practice. His prospects were the most flattering, but he became intemperate and lost prestige and practice. Dr. Andrews once practiced in Edgerton. He was a good physician and remarkable for his height, being about six and one-half feet tall. He died of consumption, though he was particularly skillful in the treatment of pulmonary complaints. Dr. Miner came there about 1860, but he soon afterward went into the army and died in the service. His son attempted to fill his father's place for a while but never became as eminent. Dr. Schmidt practiced in Edgerton about the same time, but subsequently removed to Indiana. Dr. Samuel Wood located there about 1861. He entered the army near the close of the war, was commissioned a lieutenant, and later removed to Chicago, where he engaged in the stock business. About the same time, the Drs. Long—George E. and John W.—did a large practice in and around Edgerton. Among the older physicians in point of practice now, is Dr. Hathaway, a biographical sketch of whom appears on another page.

Among the early physicians who practiced at Stryker, were Dr. Blaker, E. P. Willard and Dr. Hubbard. Later, D. C. Clover, N. B. Stubbs and F. A. Snear. Dr. Clover located there in the early 60's, and Dr. Stubbs and Snear probably ten years afterward.

The first physician who located in West Unity was Dr. T. W. Hall. This was sometime prior to 1847, and in the latter year he had two companions, G. W. Finch and J. W. Graves. The latter was a pronounced temperance man and a leader in a society known as the Sons of Temperance. In later years Mrs. Dr. G. W. Finch, Dr. J. N. Runnion, Dr. Wm. M. Denman, Dr. A. M. Wilber and Dr. F. O. Hart attended to the needs of the people in that line.

Dr. William D. Stout, who came to the township in about the year 1846, was the first resident practicing physician in Bridgewater. He was a noted deer hunter and was notoriously lazy, an indispensable constitutional element, it is said, in the "make up" of a successful hunter. If an early settler sent in the morning, in great haste, for him, for the relief of some member of his family, the good doctor would take his rifle, hunt all day and reach the sick person about night. It is humorously stated that he was so inordinately lazy that when he accidentally fell down while hunting in the woods, he would remain down until he had killed four or five deer. Those who know say there is truth as well as humor in this statement, for the best way in the world to hunt deer is to find a spot where they are likely to pass and then sit down and patiently wait for their appearance. If so, the patient hunter would kill the most deer, and in this instance the doctor was most patient; but in the meantime his patients suffered by his neglect. Among the other doctors who resided and practiced their profession in Bridgewater in years gone by, were James Stewart, Dr. Munn, William M. Denman, W. T. Clute, J. W. Williams and Richard F. Lamson. The latter, an excellent man and an experienced and well-read physician, has retired from the practice and now lives in Bryan.

Two prominent physicians in Millcreek township in former days were Drs. William Knoff and J. A. Flora.

It was many years after white settlers appeared before a physician located in Superior township. In cases of emergency, Dr. Jonas Colby of Defiance, or Dr. Thomas Kent or Dr. John Paul, of Lafayette (Pulaski), would be summoned. Dr. A. L. Snyder, who now resides in Bryan, commenced medical practice in Montpelier, in June, 1854, and his immediate predecessors in the practice there, at that time, were in the order of their coming: Drs. Levi Colby, Draper, DeWolf, A. P. Meng, and a Dr. Barkdol; but excepting Dr. Colby, the stay of all of these was brief. Then followed, in July, 1859, Dr. Isaac M. Snyder, when the two physicians of the same name, though not united by kindred ties, formed a partnership which continued until the removal of the senior partner to Bryan. The later physicians in the place were S. W. Mercer, Blair Hagerty and J. W. Williams—Dr. Hagerty alone remaining, and he yet attends to a large practice.

Dr. George E. Long—or Judge Long, as he was more familiarly known—was born May 1, 1821, in Donegal county, Ireland. He came with his parents to the United States, and with them moved to Carroll county, Ohio. When about twenty-four years of age, he began the study of medicine, and came to Williams county in 1850, where he began the practice of his profession in Superior township. The winter of 1854-55, he attended the Eclectic Medical Institute of

Cincinnati, and, graduating in 1855, came back to Williams county, which was ever after his home.

Dr. Festus A. Snear was graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery in the class of 1871-72, previous to which he attended lectures at the Medical College at Ann Arbor, Mich., after studying for two years with Drs. Long and Riggs of Bryan. He then located in Stryker for the practice of his profession, became the proprietor of a drug store, built up an extensive practice, and became one of Stryker's most public spirited citizens. He removed to Bryan, where he died a few years ago.

Sixty years ago, Dr. George W. Finch came to West Unity, his worldly possessions consisting of a horse and ten dollars in cash. The cash with the exception of fifty cents he expended for medicines, and immediately began the practice of his profession. He rapidly rose in the confidence and esteem of the people, and ere long had an extensive and lucrative practice. The year following his arrival, he erected an office, and soon after on the same lot constructed what at that time was thought to be a fine residence. Dr. Finch was born in Belmont county, Ohio, was educated at Delaware college, and died at West Unity, July 13, 1879. He was twice married, his second wife being Mrs. Lucy E. Eckis (nee Smith) widow of Dr. Samuel Eckis. This lady was born in Ellsworth, Mahoning county, Ohio, April 17, 1823. She was educated at an academy in Atwater, Ohio, and at the age of twenty-three married Samuel Eckis. They then read medicine together, graduated in the same class at Cincinnati, in 1852, and together practiced the profession for several years in Southern Illinois, where in 1859, Dr. Eckis died. After his death, Mrs. Eckis taught school for several years in Southern Ohio and Indiana. In 1864 she came to West Unity and was employed as the Principal of the High School for three years—until her marriage with Dr. Finch—after which she became almost the constant companion of the doctor in his office and in his practice. At his death she took up and continued the extensive practice left by him and met with marked and unusual success. She was well skilled in her profession, and was a lady of fine literary attainments.

Dr. James N. Runnion was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 21, 1830; received a good early education, and worked on his father's farm and taught school until 1853, when he began reading medicine. He graduated at the Western Reserve Medical College, of Cleveland, in 1856, and after a short practice at Lexington, Johnsville and Shelby, came to West Unity in 1863, and practiced his profession there until his death, March 3, 1892.

Dr. William Knoff was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, Feb. 11, 1834. He attended school in Richland county and afterward studied medicine for three years. In 1863 and 1864 he attended the Homeopathic College at Cleveland, and in the latter year located at Primrose for the practice of his profession. In 1873 he removed to Montpelier, but after an eight years' stay at the latter place, decided to return to

Primrose, where he practiced for years and built up a highly successful practice.

Dr. Isaac M. Snyder was born in Putnam county, Ohio, Sept. 11, 1836, and enjoyed good educational advantages in his youth, spending his time in study and teaching. He attended medical lectures at Ann Arbor, Mich., when eighteen, afterward graduated at Buffalo Medical College in 1859. He began practice at West Unity, but soon after removed to Montpelier, where he spent the remainder of his life, with the exception of one year at Stryker and at Pettisville, in Fulton county. He was associated for one year with Dr. A. L. Snyder—same surname, but not a relative—and after the dissolution of that partnership he remained alone in the practice. He became one of the most successful practitioners of medicine and surgery in Williams county, and was also the most extensive property owner in Montpelier.

Dr. Samuel W. Mercer was born in Crawford county, Ind., October 15, 1832, and his early days were spent in his native state and also in Ohio, engaged in acquiring an education and teaching. After the district school, he took an academic course at Newville, Ind., and was in attendance at Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1859-60. He graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, and afterward took a post graduate course at the same place. He began the practice of his profession in DeKalb county, Ind., remaining there two years, and in 1863, located in Montpelier, which place was his residence during a long and useful career.

Mention of other Williams county physicians is made in the biographical department of this work and some are also given a place in chapters upon affairs with which they were prominently identified.

The present medical society of Williams county was organized by a meeting of physicians in the court house at Bryan, in January, 1904. The original members who signed the constitution upon the day of organization were John W. Long, James W. Long, A. E. Snyder, A. L. Snyder, F. H. Pugh, C. M. Barstow, J. U. Riggs, of Bryan; R. R. Alwood, Albert W. Back, F. M. Frazier, Montpelier; and Albert Hathaway of Edon. The officers elected were: Dr. J. U. Riggs, president; Dr. J. I. Newcomb, vice president; Dr. Joseph A. Weitz, secretary and treasurer. The organization gives promise of being a permanent one, contributing to the promotion of social fellowship, scientific advancement and the high standing of the profession in Williams county.

CHAPTER XIII

ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP

TOPOGRAPHICALLY, this township is somewhat diversified. St. Joseph's River drains the territory and flows in a southwesterly direction, entering the township near its northeast corner and dividing it nearly into equal parts. The valley or bottom lands adjacent to the river are especially fertile, highly improved and very valuable. Some other parts are not so rich for agricultural purposes. The St. Joseph's River (from which the township derives its name), with its tributaries, affords the drainage of the surrounding country.

The surface of the township is generally rolling, but no elevations of very great magnitude appear. The principal varieties of timber which abounded in exhaustless supply and excellent quality were hickory, walnut, butternut, ash, poplar, sugar-maple, oak of all kinds, cherry and sycamore.

With the advent of the first white settlers, the woods abounded in game of all kinds known to the country. Deer and wild turkeys, exceedingly plentiful, afforded the principal meat supply of the early settlers. Every man and boy and some of the female population were expert hunters, and many are the tales told of hair-breadth escapes from, and single-handed contests with bruin, the arch enemy of the young domestic animals about the settlers' cabins. Wolves, panthers and wildcats also made night hideous and nocturnal travel precarious with their prowling, stealthy and deceptive methods of attack.

The first settlement of St. Joseph township antedates its organization by several years. The township organization was effected on the second day of December, 1832, from territory previously attached to Carryall township. The house of John Fee was designated as the voting place and was so continued for a number of years.

Samuel Holton is entitled to the honor of being the first settler, he having emigrated to the St. Joseph valley in the autumn of 1827. He settled on Fish Creek, one mile north of Edgerton, on what is now known as the Burkhart farm. It is claimed by some that one John Zediker, who came from Pennsylvania, was in the township as early as 1821-22, but this is merely supposition, and the honor of being the first pioneer of the township is generally accorded to Samuel Holton. It might be added here that he also contests with James Guthrie (who is mentioned in connection with Springfield township) the honor of being the first permanent settler in the county. The reader can decide for himself in the conflict of opinion. Mr. Holton purchased land in the vicinity mentioned, on Fish Creek, and there built his cabin and established a home. Other families arrived soon afterwards and became near neighbors of Mr. Holton, but it must be remembered that "near neighbors" in those days might be separated by several miles. For some time after this little settlement was located in the wilderness on Fish Creek, Mr. Holton brought all his family supplies from Defiance, and it required four days to make the journey.

In August, 1835, the following named persons were residing in this township: The widow Fee and her children were living on section 10; the widow Craig on section 11; George Aucker and Robert McCullough on section 15; Solomon Lewis, father of William Lewis, once sheriff of Williams county, on section 33; Samuel Holton on section 21; and a Mr. Haskins on section 27. Turner Jolly was a young man having no abiding place and a Mr. Talbot was in the township then for a short time, but did not remain.

David Aucker and family were among the early settlers. He was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, in 1805, and at the age of eighteen he came West; visited several counties in Southern Ohio, farmed on shares in Pickaway county till 1834, and then came to St. Joseph township, Williams county, erected a round log cabin, and two years later brought his family, and thus became one of the first permanent settlers of the township. Money was scarce, the market for his produce—Defiance—was twenty-five miles distant, and the food for the family was procured from the game of the forest and the products of the field; the clothing was spun at home from flax and wool. However, he succeeded in building up a comfortable home of 200 acres with very fair improvements. He was a Democrat and a man of extended influence. He was present at the organization of the township, and was then elected trustee, and for a number of years thereafter re-elected. He took his farewell of earth in 1876.

Daniel Farnham came in 1835. He was born in Windham county, Connecticut, in 1811. He was taken by his parents to Delaware county, N. Y., when but three years old, and there he remained until twenty-four, lumbering on the Susquehanna river, hauling logs in the winter and studying at night to augment the education he had received at a six months' term of school. In 1835, he wandered West and finally located in St. Joseph township. He worked at jobs for four months, and for four months clerked for Payne C. Parker, who was at that time trading quite extensively with the Indians. In 1836, Mr. Farnham returned to Delaware county, N. Y., and in the fall brought back to Williams county, his mother and sister. The following spring he began in the forest to clear up a farm, building a pioneer cabin and cultivating the ground until 1840, when he removed to Edgerton and engaged in the mercantile business, which occupied his attention the remainder of his life. He was justice of the peace for twelve years. His early experiences were interesting and varied, game in the beginning being the chief means of the family's subsistence. His trips to the mill for his first employer were made by ox teams, the distance was about seventy miles, and the time consumed going and coming about eleven days.

Judge Parker came in 1836, John Bratton in 1837, and John W. Bowersox in 1838. Mr. Bowersox was a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and was born January 10, 1808. He was reared a shoemaker and farmer until eighteen years of age, when he went out to work for two years as a journeyman shoemaker. Returning home, he remained there a year and then moved to near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he opened a shop. In 1831, he moved to Stark county, Ohio, located in North Industry, and there followed his trade for seven years; then he moved to St. Joseph township and located on section 5, and, in the fall of 1838, erected a round log cabin. Mr. Bowersox filled the position of township trustee for several terms. When he came to the township the forest was full of game and many were the deer and wild turkeys that fell at the crack of his rifle, and his sport was enlivened on one occasion by the slaughter of a bear, and on another by the death of a wildcat.

Benjamin Cornell, John Cornell and George Long came in 1838, and Judge Parker, as mentioned above, came two years earlier. The latter moved into the township from Defiance, where he had sold goods for a number of years previous. He first came up the river to trade with the Indians, but bought a large tract of land, built a house and then removed his family. He laid out at about that time the village of Denmark. It had its public square, storeroom, ashery and school house, and by 1840 was quite a village, being the first one in the township. George Long lived for many years on his farm three miles northwest of Edgerton. He did a mercantile business in part of his dwelling house as early as 1850, and for some years thereafter. He owned and cleared up a large farm on the Bellefontaine road and later removed to Edgerton, where he died in 1880. A Mr. Blair was also an early resident and resided at Blair's Corners, southwest of Edgerton, where he died in 1839 or 1840. He was one of the earliest settlers in that part of the township. John Skelton came into the township from Stark county in 1839 and settled in the northwestern part of the township. He died a number of years ago.

The record of the first election in St. Joseph township has been lost or not properly kept, but it is known that it was held at John Fee's, April 4, 1832; after that, for a time, elections were held in Denmark. At least one election was held at what was called the Parker place. Afterward they held elections in the school house on the hill, a little more than a mile north of Edgerton. Soon after Edgerton was started, they began to hold elections there, and it was the only voting place until the township was divided into precincts a few years ago. One of the first justices of the peace,and in fact one of the first officers elected in the township, was a Mr. Preston, but offices were not sought then as they are now. A Mr. Tanner and Alexander Kearnes were assessors for years. An office, now abolished, and which it was difficult to get anyone to fill, was that of fence viewer.

The first white child born in the township was to Samuel Holton and wife, about 1831 or 1832. The first marriage in the township was a social event of considerable importance and was attended by families from considerable distances. The contracting parties were Samuel Holton and his brother John, of the male persuasion, and two daughters of the widow Fee, representing the gentler sex. Later, in 1836, William Bender married another daughter of the widow Fee, and this was also a wedding of considerable consequence. The people gathered in large numbers, coming down the St. Joseph river from Denmark in boats. Daniel Farnham, who had lately moved into the township, was one of the invited guests. The first school house erected in the township was located at Denmark, and the first teacher was Rev. Elijah Stoddard. John Cornell was also one of the first teachers in the township. The first sermon delivered in the township is accredited to Rev. Elijah Stoddard, a local preacher, though another authority, perhaps equally reliable, gives this honor to Revs. Coleman and Warner.

The Methodists were the leaders in religious efforts in St. Joseph township, the first meetings being held in the settlers' cabins and were conducted principally by the ministers above named. After continuing the services in the houses of the members for several years, schoolhouses were used, and later houses for worship were erected. Revs. Coleman and Warner were both ministers of the M. E. church and traveled frequently through the township during those early times. Rev. Warner traveled a circuit extending into the township many years afterward, and Rev. Coleman traveled a part of the same circuit again in 1869 and 1870. The Methodist Episcopal church has maintained organizations in the township from the earliest time to the present; appointments have changed somewhat and some have been abandoned, but the voice of the itinerant minister has always been heard in the township. In the days of Thompson, Allbright, Lindsay and others, they would hold services on week days, and then it was that ministers were traveling the circuit in reality. Farmers and their hired help, their wives and children, would leave the fields, and in the garb of toil go to the schoolhouses, for the time being houses of the Lord.

The United Brethren were also early occupants of the field and held religious services at various places in the township; among others, the log barn of John W. Bowersox. The church of the United Brethren was represented by Revs. Hulburt and Jonathan Thomas, commonly known as "Father" Thomas. Rev. Hulburt was an eccentric character, something of the Peter Cartwright style. One of "Father" Thomas's appointments, over sixty-five years ago, was at what was called Blair's Corners, southwest of Edgerton, where he preached in a little old log schoolhouse. He was a man of natural talent, fearless in defense of what he conceived to be right and terrible in denunciation of the wrong.

The Presbyterians, later on, occasionally held services in the barn of Henry Cassler, on the farm now owned by Michael and John Quinn, three miles north of Edgerton. Rev. Cather, of the Lutheran church, preached in the township at various places for a number of years after 1840. He preached at Denmark, in the house of John W. Bowersox, and at various other places. He was something of a wag, and his daughters, of which he had several, were named Coon, Whale and Bear. By these names, especially Coon, they were known for years. He had quite a large family, but they were strangely unfortunate and the larger number of them died when comparatively in the prime of life. The German Methodists were at one time represented by two ministers, named Baker and Deemer. They held services awhile in what was called the Weitz neighborhood, in the northwest portion of the township. It is said that Baker, who was very popular, abandoned the ministry and fell from the profession altogether.

About the first organization of a Congregational church in the township was at the school house, three miles north of Edgerton. This was as early as 1856. Rev. Worts, then of Ligonier, Indiana, was the first minister, and there was quite a flourishing organization there. It was abandoned in a few years and the congregation was re-organized at Edgerton. Mr. Worts was present at the time of the hanging of the noted horse-thief, McDougal, by the regulators of La Grange and Noble counties, Indiana, and it is said that he held some religious services with the doomed man. In his sermons of that time he made frequent reference to the terrible scene and its lessons.

The Reformed church also held services at the same schoolhouse for a number of years, and indeed it appears that for a while every religious denomination known to the Christian world held services there. Rev. Weaver held services for the Baptists in a log schoolhouse standing on the same site, as early as 1854. It was about the time the Air Line railroad was being built. He was holding services there one Sabbath afternoon, when something like a dozen or more of the employees on the road came to the meeting and began to disturb the minister. He remonstrated with them, but to no purpose, for, having come for a row they proposed to have one. They continued their disorderly behavior beyond the endurance of the citizens present. The meeting stopped and the fight began—Alexander and Tobias Wright, John Gnagy, John W. and David Bowersox, John Skelton, Benjamin F. Cornell and others on the part of the preacher, and the railroad hands in their own behalf. The struggle was terrific, but finally the friends of good order and the Gospel prevailed. The railroad men were completely routed and most of them were fearfully battered. They threatened to return in great force, but never put in an appearance.

The Catholics first organized in Edgerton, where they have a good church building and parsonage. They have a resident priest and are in a flourishing condition. The Disciples were once stronger in Edgerton than they are now, but they still maintain an organization. The German Lutherans have a church building and organization in Edgerton, and while their numbers are not great they are in a growing condition. The Evangelical Association has done a good work near the central part of the township. Services were formerly held in a schoolhouse, about a mile and a quarter north of Edgerton, and the membership grew rapidly. They completed an excellent church building on the site of the schoolhouse, and have among their members many of the substantial citizens of the township. The Universalists have occasionally held services in Edgerton, but have had no distinct organization at any time.

Probably the first church building erected in the township was on the Bryan road, near the east line of the township. It was built of hewed logs, and as nearly as can be ascertained was controlled by the Lutherans. It was long since torn away, and had been abandoned for many years theretofore. It stood there, almost in the woods, for many years, and had sort of a ghostly appearance, but there is no trace of it left now.

The first burying ground in the township was located on the Parker farm, and Rev. Elijah Stoddard was one of the first persons buried there. After some years the ground was abandoned, the bodies were exhumed and removed to the cemetery at Edgerton. George Aucker was buried in the old cemetery during the 30's. Nearly all the churches provided a place for the interment of their dead; but these were generally abandoned when the churches declined, and the cemetery at Edgerton contains the remains of many of the early pioneers.

The first tavern in St. Joseph was opened by Judge Parker at his private residence in Denmark. The first resident physicians were Drs. Barkdol and J. S. Stough, who located in the township about the same time. These have been succeeded by many others during the seventy-three years that have elapsed since the organization of the township.

Edgerton was incorporated and assumed the position accorded by that legal proceeding by the election of a mayor and establishing a municipal government. It has numbered among its mayors such esteemed citizens as George Helwig, O. H. Fusselman, William F. Roop, James Marshall, John L. Terpening, Samuel Fritz and L. A. Knight, the present incumbent. John L. Terpening was a native of Cayuga county, N. Y., and was born March 7, 1835. He was brought to Lenawee county, Michigan, when but a child, and there reared on a farm until sixteen years of age, when he began an apprenticeship as jeweler at Hudson, that state. He afterward conducted a jewelry store there for a year or more, and in the spring of 1858 removed to Edgerton, where he established a jewelry store in the town, which he managed for a great many years. He received the appointment as postmaster of the place in 1870, and held it continuously until the change of administration in 1885. During the civil war he was employed as enrolling officer for the drafts and performed his duty impartially, fearlessly, and to the satisfaction of the people. He also served as township clerk for five years, besides officiating in the capacity of mayor.

Edgerton is located in a beautiful agricultural district and is surrounded by the most fertile and highly prolific lands. The Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, Daughters of Rebekah, and Free and Accepted Masons are the secret societies represented in the town.

These different orders are prosperous and number among their members many of the best people in the town and adjacent country.

The town of Edgerton, according to the census of 1900, contains a population of one thousand and forty-three. This is an increase of seventy-six during the last decade, a percentage that is small, but it represents a substantial growth. It is a busy trading point, sustained by a large scope of good farming country, and its support is assured in the character and reputation of the business men. Some of the stores would do credit to a much larger place. Considerable manufacturing is also done, and an excellent graded school in the village affords ample opportunities to the children in the acquirement of a good practical education.

CHAPTER XIV

PULASKI TOWNSHIP

PREVIOUS to March 3, 1834, the territory of Pulaski township was attached to Tiffin township for the convenience of the people in the adjustment of legal affairs. On the date above written, the board of county commissioners had the following placed in their record of proceedings: "Upon application, the Board orders that a new township be erected, composed of original surveyed townships, six, seven and eight, north of range three east, to be denominated 'Beaver Township;' and the Board further order that the inhabitants assemble at the house of John Perkins, in said township, on the seventh day of April next, and proceed to elect, according to law, the necessary officers for the purpose of organizing said township, and that the auditor advertise accordingly."

It is thought by some that Pulaski is the oldest township in Williams county, but this idea is erroneous, as St. Joseph township was organized nearly two years prior to the date mentioned above. However, it has the distinction of being the second one organized, and, although its name was changed, the functions of local government continued uninterruptedly from the time of its organization. Beaver township originally included in its domain what are now Jefferson township in Williams county, and Washington township, in Defiance county; but on August 7, 1837, some territory was taken from town 7 (Jefferson) and added to town 6 (Pulaski) and the name of the latter was changed. The commissioners' record of that day reads as follows: "It is ordered by the Board that the south half of range 3 east, be taken from said town and be added to town 6 in said range; and upon petition the name of said town is changed from Beaver to Pulaski, and the said township of Pulaski is hereby organized; and the auditor is ordered to give notice for an election at the house of Alonzo Rawson, on the 26th inst., for the purpose of electing the necessary officers for the government of said township." This election was necessary to fill vacancies caused by the organization of Jefferson, some of the officials of old Beaver being residents of the territory included in the newly erected township.

December 4, 1837, the last change in boundary, which reduced Pulaski to its present size, was made under the provisions of the following: "The Board took into consideration the petition of sundry citizens of town 7, in the county of Williams, praying that the boundary lines of said township might be so altered as to include the same territory included in the original survey of said township, and the board order that the prayer of said petitioners be granted." This action of the Board necessitated another election, and the next day the following entry was made on the record: "In addition to the order of the Board of yesterday, the Board further orders that the auditor give notice to the electors of Pulaski township to meet on the 16th day of December, 1837, at Thomas Shorthill's, in said township, for the purpose of electing such township officers, whose places have become vacant in consequence of the alteration in said Pulaski township, at the present session of the Board." The adjoining townships to Pulaski are Springfield on the east, Jefferson on the north, Center on the west and Washington township, in Defiance county, on the south.

The topographical features of the township are not very striking, if to be so comprehends a great variety of natural scenery. The broad and fertile fields, rich and productive, are the principal sources of agricultural wealth. The first settlers of the township were of the class of the heroic pioneers who accompanied the Perkins party and were later identified with the settlement of Bryan. Some remained in the village for a time and subsequently sought homes on the rich lands adjacent, and others came a few years later, so that the lands of Pulaski township were very generally occupied by actual settlers at an early date in the history of the present limits of the county.

In October, 1833, Judge John Perkins removed from Brunersburg with his sons, Isaac and Garrett, and son-in-law, John Plummer, and, these, accompanied by John Moss, George Lantz, Henry Jones and a Mr. Hood, established themselves on Beaver Creek and named their colony Lafayette. Judge Perkins built a grist and saw-mill on the creek, which, it is believed, was the first mill for grinding grain erected within what now are the limits of Williams county. Alonzo Rawson came some time afterward. He belonged to one of the most eminent pioneer families of Northern Ohio, his three brothers being the late Abel Rawson, a distinguished lawyer who settled in Tiffin, in 1826, and Dr. L. Q. Rawson, who settled in Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), in 1827, and Dr. Bass Rawson of Findlay, one of the early pioneers of Hancock county. Alonzo Rawson opened the first stock of goods at Lafayette (since changed to Pulaski), in a house built by himself, and afterward sold to A. W. Boynton, when Mr. Rawson removed from the county. At this time there was no white settlement in the township, except at what is now Pulaski, and its inhabitants, like those at Williams Center, then anticipated that when the seat of justice would finally leave Defiance for a point near the geographical center, it would settle permanently in their midst. No dreamer then expected the erection of Defiance and Fulton counties and the destruction of the original county lines.

The poll book for an election for justice of the peace, held in Pulaski township, April 6, 1840, gives the following names of voters, and they probably fairly represent early established families in the township: Daniel Davidson, David Pickett, Reuben H. Gilson, Robert Thompson, Isaac Swager, Daniel Wyatt, Sr., William Kilpatrick, Isaac Perkins, James McKinley, Philetus S. Gleason, Jabez Jones, Ezra

Wilson, George B. Jones, Alonzo Rawson, John Kaufman, David Landaman, Alfred Shepard, John Oakes, Henry Johnson, George Shook, John Beavers, Seymour Montgomery, Aquilla Caszet, Peter Deck, John Harris, Benjamin Smith, Barnabas Peddycoast, William Johnson, John Flannahs, J. R. Capsil, Daniel Wyatt, Jr., Samuel A. Baker, Benjamin Kent, George Everett, John Perkins and Everett Perkins.

Among the pioneers of Pulaski township was Philetus S. Gleason, who was born June 24, 1814, in Tompkins county, New York. He was reared to manhood in his native county and at an early age was apprenticed to learn the cabinet-makers' trade. In October, 1835, he migrated to Williams county and located in Springfield township. At that time, Williams county was in a state of nature, but Mr. Gleason took up a piece of land, which he began clearing, at the same time working at his trade when opportunity afforded. From Springfield he removed to Pulaski township, some time prior to 1840.

Benjamin Kent came to Columbiana county, Ohio, from Virginia, in 1824. He was a plasterer and worked at his trade there until 1840, when he came to Pulaski township and died there, December 27, 1860. He was the father of Dr. Thomas Kent, who is given a biographical notice in the chapter on the "Bench and Bar."

Pulaski township does not differ materially from the other townships of the county in regard to early industries. The pioneer mills, distilleries, churches and schools had their existence, and with the exception of the latter, have mostly passed away with the increasing prominence of Bryan as a marketing and trading point, coupled with the superior advantages of the village in a religious and educational way. The principal grain crop is wheat and corn, for the production of which the soil is admirably adapted. Corn is the staple product and this is largely fed to cattle and hogs, these being the source of a large income. Horses and sheep are also raised with profit on the rich grazing fields afforded on the fountain-watered farms, and which are not used at the time for the cultivation of crops.

There are nine school districts in Pulaski township, exclusive of the Bryan public schools. With a carefully graded course of study, these give the persisting students the advantages of a good common school education and fit them for the ordinary business of life.

With an honorable record of sixty-five years of existence, Bryan well sustains her long established reputation for solidity and the merited compliment of being a good town. The men who established the little hamlet in the wilderness, in 1840, founded that reputation, and their descendants and successors have well maintained it.

The religious and educational affairs of the village also received early attention, and liberal support. Merchants were aggressive and public-spirited, their stocks oftimes rivaling in value those exhibited by present day dealers. The early banking institutions were flourishing and impregnable and general prosperity crowned the efforts of the people. But if the reader will but reflect he will observe that all the business of the earlier days, as well as at present, was closely related to agricultural supremacy. Williams county was then, as now, the center of one of the richest agricultural districts in the United States, a distinction which the locality has retained with creditable success. All business was directed toward handling the products of the farms and in supplying the farmers' needs.

The early settlers and business men of Pulaski township were generally people with agricultural tendencies and traditions. They were sons of farmers, and parental traditions and customs are strong within the human breast. These men purchased land, cultivated and improved it, erected houses and lived out their allotted days in the peace and harmony of the quiet community their industry had established.

Bryan has a population of three thousand one hundred and thirty-one, according to the census of 1900. It contains a number of handsome and expensive residences and public buildings, while the average homes evince the air of thrift and prosperity in their surroundings, in keeping with the industry and frugality of the occupants. The village contains fewer poor and squalid residences, indicative of poverty and misery, than most villages of its size.

The sanitary conditions are excellent and the drainage system as good as can be had. The board of health and sanitary officers are vigilant in the discharge of their official duties, and the streets and alleys are kept in the most perfect sanitary condition. A well organized and trained volunteer fire department is equipped with the latest and best apparatus for the purpose designed. The efficiency of the department has been demonstrated on many occasions. A police force, the guardians of the public peace and property, although few in number, are noted for their efficiency in the line of official duties, and the village marshal, August Heidley, has received high commendation for successful detective work. He and his deputies are courteous and obliging men, to whose vigilance and alertness is due the small percentage of burglaries and unlawful acts, of which the village boasts.

The municipal government of Bryan for the present year (1905) is as follows: Mayor, John B. White; street commissioner, William Garlow; chief of the fire department, Frederick Yunck; clerk, John W. Hoke; treasurer, John A. Niel; marshal, August Heidley. The council is organized as follows: Edward Leake, president, Frank E. Adams, William R. Ames, Philip Christman, Edward Farber and Frederick E. Mader. The board of health is organized with Nicholas Vineyard as health officer.

The nucleus of the present city library originated in 1882, when the cultured ladies of Bryan took hold of the matter in earnest and organized the Bryan Library Association. The books were kept at various places in the town until about 1892, when a room in the basement of the court house was secured, and that was the home of the library until December, 1904. The first librarian after the association was organized was Miss Olive Wilber, who was assisted by Miss E. M. Willett. Later, Miss Alice Walt was given charge and she has continued to serve as librarian for many years. In 1903, negotiations were opened with Andrew Carnegie, looking to a donation by him to Bryan for library purposes. The effort was successful, the steel magnate agreeing to give ten thousand dollars upon condition that the citizens of Bryan would furnish an annuity of one thousand to support the enterprise. The Board of Education of the Bryan School District invoked the power which is given them by statute and levied a tax of one mill upon the property valuation of the district, and thus guaranteed the satisfaction of Mr. Carnegie's proposal. The cornerstone of the Carnegie library building, on High street—just off the public square—was laid on Oct. 23, 1903, and the same was completed and made ready for occupancy by December 20, 1904. The library is open on certain days of the week and is a popular resort, much appreciated by the studious citizens of all ages, who often fill the convenient sittings provided in the reading room. Bryan may well be proud of her public library, where three thousand, five hundred choice volumes await the call of its patrons.

Bryan is represented in journalism by two weekly newspapers, but as these have been given appropriate mention in another chapter, a repetition is not necessary. Nothing like an extended notice of the various religious organizations which have existed in the village of Bryan can be attempted in this volume. The little leaven planted in the wilderness so many years ago has grown to mammoth proportions, and no town of like size in the state of Ohio possesses greater evidence of spiritual growth, or more devout and conscientious leaders in the great cause of Christian life. Several churches have been organized from time to time, in which the zeal of their promoters exceeded the demand for their services, hence they had but an ephemeral existence. But of the persisting organizations which have grown to prominence and influence, there are several, and their present day status is the best evidence of their high standing and liberal support.

The first church of the Presbyterian faith was organized by the early pioneers and services were conducted in the cabins, or at any accessible point, until a church building was erected. The first churches were attended by the worshipping pioneers, regardless of their individual preferences as to creed; and it was not until 1854 that the Presbyterian church began to maintain a separate organization, in Bryan. The first minister and organizing pastor was Rev. J. M. Crabb; the organization was effected in compliance with the wishes of a few devoted settlers of the early day, and on the 9th of September, 1856, the church society legally incorporated as the "Presbyterian Church and Society Old School," a designation which it retained until 1872, when it became the First Presbyterian Church and Society of Bryan. As the congregation grew in numbers and interest, services were held regularly and a commodious meeting place was provided for by the erection of a frame structure on North Lynn Street. A number of eloquent and zealous pastors occupied the pulpit of this church during its years of use, and it served until 1903, when the building of the present handsome church was completed. Rev. Thomas H. Kohr is the present pastor.

The history of early Methodism in Bryan dates from the first years of the town's existence and is centered around the old log court house and the first schoolhouse in the village. In the fall of 1840 meetings of this sect were held at the hotel of Thomas Shorthill. Soon afterward the congregation moved its place of preaching to the old log court house and continued to hold meetings there until the schoolhouse was built, and then occupied it until the members could build a structure of their own. Among the first supporters of this church were Thomas Shorthill, James Shorthill and William Yates. In the year 1853, a church was built on the corner of Beech and Butler streets—where the present structure stands—and the trustees at that time were D. M. Crall, David Fairfield, A. R. Patterson, M. B. Plummer, Jacob Over, Levi Cunningham and William Yates. The present church was erected in 1895, and is an imposing structure. Many familiar names have been associated with this congregation and many distinguished divines have been connected with the organization. Rev. John I. Wean is the present pastor.

There are in Bryan devout and pious Catholics; but their numbers are small, and a missionary priest, at stated periods, holds service. They have a church edifice, and few as are the numbers of these worshippers, they command a high degree of respect from co-religionists on account of the firmness they manifest in holding fast to their faith.

The first Baptist church of Bryan was organized, October 8, 1841. The first regular pastor was Rev. G. B. Lewis. The congregation has a neat church building on the south side of West High street. Rev. Clarke L. Randall is the pastor in charge, and the present success of the organization is largely due to his untiring efforts.

The Church of Christ, in charge of Rev. Malo M. Amonson, is located on the south side of East High street, where regular services are conducted.

The United Brethren in Christ have an organization in Bryan, the church being located at the corner of Main and Wilson streets. Rev. C. E. Weidner is pastor in charge and conducts two services every other Sunday.

The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation commenced its existence December 21, 1861, having at that date no house of worship, though commencing with a membership of eighteen persons, and the pastor being Rev. Herman Schmidt, of the Ohio Synod; and February 4, 1869, a movement was made to build a church edifice. Accordingly the house was erected on Beech street adjacent to the planing mills. Rev. Fr. Henkleman is the present pastor.

The English Lutheran church of Bryan was founded in February, 1875. Rev. F. B. Heibert is the present pastor, and by his faithful efforts the church is prospering.

The First Universalist church of Bryan was organized July 10, 1870, with a membership of twenty-one. Rev. Rice preached for it during the first nine years of its existence, and it is to his untiring industry and unwavering zeal that the church owes its foundation and early success. Services were held for several years in Long's Hall, north side of court square, but in 1875-76, a commodious church edifice was erected on the southeast corner of Main and Maple streets. Rev. G. H. Ashworth is the resident minister, and by his logical discourses and clear reasoning, together with a singleness of purpose which characterizes his work, he is making the church and himself deservedly popular.

The Protestant Episcopal church is the youngest of the religious organizations in the village. Public services are held at Trinity Mission Chapel, alternate Sunday evenings.

The public burial place of Bryan is Fountain Grove cemetery, located one mile south of the public square, just beyond the corporation limits. Previous to the establishment of Fountain Grove cemetery, and beginning with 1841, there was a public burying-place near the present site of Gustave Christman's flour mills and Jacob Halm's brewery. But the development of the town in every direction deprived this place of the quiet and seclusion which one always associates with a burial place for the dead; hence the selection of the present site, which has been enlarged and beautified as the years passed until it is now an ideal spot. It contains the mortal remains of several of Williams county's most distinguished citizens, whose final resting places are rendered conspicuous by the erection of worthy monuments. The private citizen and the soldier are equally honored by the reverence and sacrifice of surviving friends, to the end that this sacred spot is rendered beautiful in keeping with the sadly reverential purpose which made its existence a necessity.

The business interests of Bryan are varied and extensive. The mercantile houses compare favorably in extent, variety and quality of goods with any town of equal size in the state. The volume of business is very large when the close proximity of rival towns is considered. The mercantile houses are generally backed with resources commensurate to their demands, and the element of losses from bad accounts is reduced to the minimum by reason of the stable character of the buyers. Perhaps no town in the state, of equal size, has a smaller percentage of losses from bad debts. This is due, in part, to the fact that buyers are permanent residents, usually owning their own homes, though the element of honesty and business integrity among them is a dominant feature.

The early history of merchandising in Bryan is interesting, in that it covers the period of early settlement and development in every line of human endeavor, beyond the memory of the large majority of the inhabitants of today. Few can fully realize the fact, except through the continual "promptings" of history and the press, that for many years following the first settlement all goods displayed for sale were brought across the country from Defiance, to which place they had been shipped in canal boats. The telegraph and telephone were then unknown and the flat boat and keel boat had but recently supplemented a part of the labors of the horse. If merchants were obliged to procure their goods through that slow process in this day they would think the distance to New York an unsurmountable barrier to a successful mercantile career. One of the earliest merchants was William Yates, who brought the first stock of goods, drawn by ox team, across the country from Defiance. D. M. Crall and Jacob Boyer were among the first general merchants, and Charles Case began business in Bryan at about the same time.

The social spirit of Bryan is revealed in the following list of secret and benevolent societies: Masonic: Bryan Lodge, No. 215, F. and A. M.; Northwest Chapter, No. 45, R. A. M. Independent Order of Odd Fellows: Fountain City Lodge, No. 314; Williams Encampment, No. 102. The Grand Army of the Republic has an organization—Evans Post, No. 149. Auxiliary to this is the Woman's Relief Corps. The Sons of Veterans have an organization known as Fountain City Camp No. 192. There are lodges of the Knights of Honor, Knights of Pythias (No. 221), Royal Arcanum, and the National Union. It would be interesting to have the history of these various organizations, particularly the more important ones, but lack of space forbids the attempt.

CHAPTER XV

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

THIS is the only full-sized one, territorially, of the eastern tier of townships in Williams county. It occupies the southeast corner and touches adjacent territory in both Defiance and Fulton counties. The surface is generally level, with just sufficient undulation to afford good drainage. Like all the surrounding country, it is well watered and admirably adapted to all classes of diversified agriculture. The principal stream is Bean Creek, an affluent of the Maumee, which flows through it from north to south. Numerous smaller streams traverse the land as tributaries and contribute to the facilities for grazing, an industry which is well represented in connection with general farming and fruit growing.

The township, of course, is an exact quadrangle in shape—six miles square—bounded on the north by Brady township and on the west by Pulaski. Defiance county forms the entire southern boundary, while Fulton county joins it on the east and provides a boundary for two sections on the north. Like all the other territory which was not surveyed until after the adoption of the admirable Congressional plan, the system of surveys is regular, descriptions being sections, quarter sections, etc. The territory was originally covered with an abundant growth of excellent timber, and these desirable features early attracted crowds of immigrants who had followed the first settlers into the new country.

Springfield was organized as a separate township on March 30, 1835, the territory having prior to that date been attached to or a part of Tiffin township (now in Defiance county). The boundaries then provided by order of the county commissioners carried jurisdiction to the Michigan line, but these were subsequently reduced and the present congressional limits established. The first election for township officers was held at the house of Sarah Luther, on the 16th day of May, 1835, and resulted in the selection of the following named persons: Jonathan B. Taylor, clerk; Bruce Packard, John Stubbs and Harmon Doolittle, trustees; Joseph Stubbs, John Fields and Joseph Bates, fence viewers; John Lindenberger and Joseph Bates, supervisors; John H. Stubbs and Calvin Gleason, constables; Daniel Colgan and Abram Worts, overseers of the poor; Thomas J. Prettyman, treasurer. By reason of the death of Thomas J. Prettyman, July 28, 1835, a vacancy was created in the treasurer's office, and the trustees, on September 5, appointed Daniel Colgan to that position. Upon the same day, Jonathan B. Taylor and Harmon Doolittle were elected justices of the peace. All the above persons qualified, and those of whom it was required gave the necessary bonds.

The township clerk's book containing the above facts is said to be still in existence, and among the records in the county clerk's office at Bryan is the poll-book of the election, held on September 5, 1835, when the justices named above were chosen. This record contains the name of every voter who cast his ballot at the election, and it is fair to infer that it represents nearly the entire voting population of the township at that time. The names recorded are as follows: John Stubbs, Joseph Stubbs, Daniel Colgan, John H. Stubbs, Calvin Gleason, John Hollinshead, Jonathan B. Taylor, Harmon Doolittle, John Lindenberger, Abraham Worts.

Of the early settlers of the township, no one is more worthy of the post of honor than John Stubbs, not only because of his early residence, but because of his prominence and usefulness in the young community. He was a man of marked intelligence and strong humanitarian principles, one of the few who willingly yielded personal interest and made financial sacrifices for the sake of principle. He was born in Orange county, New York, August 12, 1784. His father, William Stubbs, who was of Welsh descent, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and assisted in the capture of the desperate and infamous tory, Claudius Smith, near Goshen, Orange county, New York, where he was afterwards hanged. In early life, John Stubbs removed to Tompkins county, New York. He was captain of a company of state militia during the war of 1812. In 1832 he sold his farm in Tompkins county and entered nearly 1,000 acres of land in what afterwards became Springfield township, Williams county, Ohio, and came with his family, together with his sons-in-law, Jonathan B. Taylor and Harmon Doolittle, and their families, all settling in Springfield township, the following spring. Mr. Stubbs located on Tiffin River (Bean Creek), about three miles south of the present site of Stryker, built a cabin and commenced clearing. Here he remained but a year, when he removed to another tract of land in the same township, two and a half miles west of Stryker, and built another cabin. This farm of 130 acres he soon afterwards sold to Dr. Kibbey, who contemplated building a saw-mill and surveyed a portion of the land for town lots, calling the new place Williamsport; but becoming badly involved and unable to execute his intentions, the land reverted to Mr. Stubbs, who, in the meantime, had returned to his former place where he had begun a home, and where himself and family resided until 1861, when Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs went to live with their son, John H. Stubbs, with whom they remained until death called them. Mr. Stubbs died, January 26, 1864, and was followed by Mrs. Stubbs in 1871. Mr. Stubbs was for eighteen years justice of the peace in Tompkins county, New York, and after coming to Ohio filled continuously for many years some of the township offices, being also at one time one of the commissioners of Williams county. He was a member of no church, but was for more than half a century a prominent and leading member of the Masonic fraternity, having advanced as far in the order as was then possible in this country. He was for many years Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge, in Tompkins county, New York, and after coming west helped to organize new lodges over northwestern Ohio. He believed Masonry to be the best organization ever instituted by man, and constantly practiced, through a long and useful life, the tenets of the order. Ever seeking to ameliorate the condition of humanity he dispensed charities with a loving heart and a bounteous hand.

John H. Stubbs came to Williams county, in 1833, and was identified with its growth from that early period. His parents located in Springfield township on a farm, where he remained at work, and which he acquired by deed of gift from his father in 1845. In company with two brothers-in-law, he built the first saw-mill in Springfield township, on Tiffin River, which he had charge of for several years. He was peculiarly fitted for pioneer life, and, being a sure marksman, the wild turkeys and deer with which the country abounded, suffered at his hands. He was of an eminently social nature, and, with his violin, was an indispensable figure at all the primitive gatherings of that day. He served to cheer and enliven the hearts of the widely-separated neighbors and inspire courage for renewed efforts. Mr. Stubbs was a charter member of Stryker Lodge, No. 611, I. O. O. F., and in politics was a Republican. He was born November 26, 1820, in Springfield, Tompkins county, New York. For more than forty years he was an extensive, close and careful reader and investigator, especially of metaphysical subjects. He did his own thinking and would not allow creed-makers to forge fetters for his mind. He believed that all material things were formed in obedience to certain immutable laws; that both law and matter are eternal and indestructible; that the word "create" is a misnomer and should be stricken from every language. He believed that there is a certain something called "energy," also eternal and indestructible, which overcomes resistance and does work; that this energy is always the same, no matter under what circumstances it may be manifested. He firmly believed that what men called "mind," "intelligence" or "soul," is only a manifestation of energy. He believed in the entity of the individual mind; that all mental improvement is but accumulated thought or energy, and that it must go on forever. To him, the only evidence of a future existence is in the manifestation of spirits, and while he repudiated creeds, one and all, as the inventions of men, he was yet no materialist. He would not bow the knee in superstitious reverence of the Past, simply because it is the Past, but worshiped toward the Dawn. He believed in a religion of love, rather than in a religion of duty; that the whole of religion, pure and undefiled, is to deal justly, love mercy, and to endeavor to make fellow creatures happy. Mr. Stubbs departed this life at his home near Stryker, September 10, 1882.

Thomas J. Prettyman was a soldier in the war of 1812, and by trade was a carpenter. He was born in the state of Delaware, but early in life removed to Philadelphia, and thence came to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he bought two farms, aggregating about 320 acres, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1833, he brought his family to Springfield township, where he had entered 200 acres of land two years before, and entered 600 additional acres. Here he built a cabin on Bean Creek and began clearing up a farm, his nearest market being Defiance, which could be reached only by poling down the river. He was a local minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, and preached probably the first sermon ever heard within the present limits of Williams county, it being the discourse at the funeral of a Miss Knipe, whose death was the first on record in Springfield township. As stated above, Mr. Prettyman was the first treasurer of the township, and held that office at the time of his death, July 28, 1835.

It is claimed that James Guthrie settled on Bean Creek, about 1827. If such is the fact he must have been the first settler in what is now Springfield township, and very probably in what is now Williams county. Peter Knipe settled on the southeast corner of section 33, in the spring of 1831. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and removed to Ross county, Ohio, at an early day. He left Ross county and settled on Bean Creek, near Brunersburg, in the year 1827, and from there he moved within the present limits of Springfield township. Josiah B. Packard settled in the north part of the township at an early day. Rev. Thomas J. Prettyman, as stated above, settled on the north part of section 29, in the spring of 1833, was a Methodist local preacher, and a leading man in the community. Lewis W. Prettyman, a son, was four or five years of age when his father settled in the township and spent a long and useful life there. At the time of his death, which occurred but a few years ago, he had no doubt lived longer in Springfield township than any other person. Daniel Colgan settled on section 20, in the year 1833, and lived there until his death, which occurred in 1867. He came from Champaign county, Ohio, to Williams county, but he was a native of Kentucky. William B. Sprague and his father, Solomon Sprague, came to Williams county and settled in the south part of Springfield township, about 1832 or 1833. They were natives of Rhode Island and distant relatives of former Senator Sprague of that state. James Luther settled at an early day, perhaps in 1833, near the place where Stryker now stands. It is said that John Hollinshead first settled on a farm on the west bank of Bean Creek, and that Daniel Colgan bought the claim in 1833, after which Mr. Hollinshead moved farther north. Among the other early settlers were David Carpenter, Louis Clark, Harvey Clark and Chauncey Clark.

Louis Clark was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, December 4, 1802, where he received the usual education of the time, and worked on the farm of his uncle until twenty-one years old. Shortly afterward he opened a meat market in Greenfield, Massachusetts, which he continued two years, and, in 1834, came to Springfield township, where he entered 160 acres of land and commenced the work of clearing. The inhabitants at this time were sparse and the difficulties manifold, the nearest market and mill being seventy miles distant, by water, and corn was the only grain procurable. On one occasion, during the summer of 1834, Mr. Clark and other settlers went to Brunersburg to obtain provisions. None being procurable at that place, they held a council (not of war, but of ways and means) to devise some mode of driving the wolves of hunger from their forest doors. Mr. Clark and another young man were dispatched to Cleveland for a supply of flour. They purchased fifteen barrels, paying ten and twelve dollars per barrel, and this they shipped by steamboat to Toledo, thence, by ox team, to a point on the river, and thence by barge up the Maumee and Tiffin rivers to the settlement, a distance of 120 miles. In 1838 Mr. Clark built a cabin and continued to increase his farm until it comprised nearly 400 acres, which he later divided among his children. He was the second trustee of Springfield township and a member of the school board for many years.

In 1834, Harvey Clark came to Springfield township and entered several hundred acres, some of which he began to clear. In 1836, he married Mary Stubbs and at once built a cabin, and resided in the township until 1866, when he sold his farm and moved to Missouri. In 1877, he returned and lived the remainder of his life with his children.

Stryker is the only village of importance in Springfield township. It was laid out in the fall of 1853 by John A. Sargeant and E. L. Barber, and was named in honor of John Stryker, who was an officer of the Air Line railroad. As a country town it has assumed and maintained progressive business interests, and, being in the center of a rich agricultural district, is destined to hold its own, notwithstanding the aggressions of other towns near by. In the last decade the village has had a substantial growth, showing an increase of nearly two hundred in population. A Mr. Tingley opened the first hotel in the town, and Blinn & Letcher (Chester Blinn and William Letcher) were the first merchants. Chester Blinn was born in Cleveland, Ohio, June 15, 1815, and at the age of eighteen was employed in the fur trade at Orleans, Ohio, where he remained nearly seven years. He then engaged in the same business at Fort Wayne, until 1849, when he removed to West Unity and formed a partnership in the mercantile business with William Letcher, under the firm name of Blinn & Letcher. In 1853, this firm took a grading contract on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, and, in 1854, started a branch store at Stryker, which as before related, was the first one in the place. Both were operated until 1857, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Blinn retaining the stock at Stryker, which he sold in 1859. In 1861, he was employed in the quartermaster's department at Gallatin, Tennessee, under Capt. W. A. Hunter, and remained there two years. After his return the firm of Blinn & Douglas began operations in Stryker as grain and stock dealers, and for years did a very extensive business in that line.

William Sheridan, Jr., was the first postmaster at Stryker. When the town was laid out there was an old log schoolhouse near by that was used for school purposes until the town, with the aid of the township, built a two-story frame house, in 1856-57. This building has long since been superseded by new and better ones, in which the citizens take a lively interest and render willing support.

Perhaps the first religious meetings in the township were held at the house of Daniel Colgan, on section 20. In October, 1833, Rev. James B. Austin was invited to preach in Mr. Colgan's cabin, and at this meeting a society of five members was formed. It is said that this was the first religious meeting within the present limits of Williams county, and the five members who formed the first organization were Thomas J. Prettyman, Lydia Prettyman, Mary Prettyman, Daniel Colgan and Christi Ann Colgan. Peter Knipe and wife and Wallery Coonrod were also early church members. All of the above named were Methodists. David Carpenter, who settled in the "thicket," was the first prominent United Brethren church member in the township. The churches of the township have made rapid progress from these small beginnings of sixty-five or seventy years ago, and there are at least three societies of the Methodist Episcopal church, with a large membership in the total.

Perhaps the first religious society of United Brethren in the township was organized in the "thicket" about forty-five or fifty years ago. David Carpenter, a leading member, contributed a great deal of time and money, and through his efforts a building was soon after erected on his farm, on the southeast corner of section 15. About 1873, that house was removed to Stryker and rebuilt, and that act centered the organization of the church at the village. The Universalist church at Stryker was organized, April 13, 1877, by Rev. J. T. Rice, with seventeen members. The following were the first officers: W. E. Kintigh, moderator; Philip Werum, Chester Blinn and William C. Miller, trustees; C. C. Douglas, clerk; Mrs. A. Silvernail, treasurer; S. P. Cameron and Chester Blinn, stewards. This church organization is one of the most active in the township. The Catholics have a church organization at Stryker, consisting of a number of families, and they erected a church building in the township as early as 1860. The Baptists have a society, and there are a few Presbyterians and German Methodists in the township who have preaching occasionally.

Springfield township is one of the best agricultural districts in Williams county, and the thrifty farmers are profitably engaged in all classes of diversified farming. Considerable attention is given to the raising of fine stock, and some are buyers and shippers of the same. A very large proportion of the grain raised is fed to stock on the farms. There are many fine homes in the township, an evidence of thrift and prosperity.

CHAPTER XVI

BRADY TOWNSHIP

BRADY was set off from Springfield township on March 7, 1836. There is some speculation as to the origin of the name, the most plausible account of which is that through the influence of Gilbert Dunscomb, the township was named in perpetuation of the name and in honor of Captain Samuel Brady, whose exploits are so well known to every one familiar with the pioneer history of this part of the western country. Brady is in the middle of the eastern tier of townships of Williams county, and was originally six miles square; but at the formation of Fulton county, two tiers of sections were taken from the east side, thus reducing the area of the township to twenty-four square miles. The surface of the country is somewhat varied, but the major portion of it is generally level, partaking somewhat of the character of the land in Pulaski and Springfield townships. In the southeastern portion, however, the surface becomes more rolling, and there are some slight swells, exhibiting the gravelly clay of the western portion of the county. The divide that separates the drainage to the St. Joseph and Tiffin rivers passes through the county northwest of the township. There are several streams in the township, but they are all tributaries of Tiffin River, or Bean Creek, as it is more commonly known, and which flows for some distance through the southeast corner of the township. Thus, being well watered as it is, the value of the lands for agricultural and grazing purposes is greatly enhanced. The soil is mostly clay, or clay loam, with occasionally a subsoil of gravel, and in every portion of the township it is very fertile, and in the creek bottoms especially so.

Brady was originally covered with heavy timber, mostly of the hard wood varieties, as walnut, butternut, hickory, the various kinds of oak, beech, maple, yellow poplar, whitewood, white ash, elm, etc. These were abundant, while the buckeye, sycamore, wild cherry, ironwood and dog-wood were less generally distributed. The shrubs were the hazel, blackberry, huckleberry, Juneberry, hackberry and spice. Most of the varieties of timber and shrubs are still represented, though the best has long since found its way to the mills and markets, if not to the pioneer "log heaps."

The township was noted in early times for its abundance of wild animals, and was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians for many years after the cession of the land to the whites. By general consent, they were permitted to make annual visits, which they seemed to greatly enjoy. There were bears, panthers, wolves and wildcats in great numbers, while deer and wild turkeys furnished the principal meat foods to the early settlers. The larger wild animals were of course for many years a source of annoyance and danger.

There are, or were, several mounds of past ages in Brady township, as there are, or were, in other localities in the county. But these are given appropriate notice and description in the chapter on "Williams County Antiquities," and it is not necessary to make a repetition here. We will state, however, that a remarkable group of mounds once stood on the farm of Frederick Charles, but there is little left to perpetuate the recollection of these ancient works. During the disintegration of the mounds, quite a number of them were opened and about two feet from the original surface were found fragments of human remains and numerous stone implements. Another and fair sized solitary mound was located on land formerly owned by James F. Smith, and perhaps there were others, but they all have been leveled by the successive plowings of seventy years.

Brady township was settled nearly as early as any of the townships of Williams county. The first settlers were John Miller, John Rings, Gilbert Dunscomb, Jacob Bohner, Abner Ayres and Warren Hancock. In the month of April, 1835, John Miller entered a piece of land near where West Unity now stands. Gilbert Dunscomb entered land in May, and Abner Ayers in August of same year. Jacob Bohner, Warren Hancock and John Rings also entered land in 1835. William Miller, Samuel Snyder, H. F. Flowers, David Loutzenhizer, William Stubbs and William H. McGrew settled in 1836 and 1837. Here, and by these people, the first improvements were made and the first crops raised.

John Miller settled in Brady township and entered 160 acres of wild land, which he rescued from the wilderness. He sold, thirty years later, and moved to Pulaski township, where he resided till 1876; then sold out again and moved to Waterloo, Indiana; residing there till 1881, and then came to Edgerton, this county, where he lived the remainder of his life.

John Rings was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, September 2, 1804, was a farmer, and also a teamster in the days of six-horse teams. He came to this county in 1835, and settled on land now partially occupied by the town of West Unity, then a dense forest. Some years after, he had a portion of his land surveyed and laid out into town lots, started the village, July 20, 1842, and named it after Pleasant Unity, a town in his native county and state. Mr. Rings was the first justice of the peace elected in Brady township. He was elected county commissioner in 1837, county treasurer in 1851, re-elected in 1853, and died in his second term, April 18, 1855. He was part owner of the first sawmill erected in the village, also one of the owners of the first grist mill. At the time of his death he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, and was at all times foremost in enterprises tending to the improvement or development of his town and county.

Jacob Bohner was of German descent and was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1808. In 1831, he emigrated to Richland county, Ohio, and in June, 1835, moved to Brady township, Williams county, settled in the woods, and hewed out of the wilderness a farm. He died April 25, 1881, of dropsy, after an illness of about eleven weeks, at the age of seventy-three. He had been considered the strongest man in the county and had never been ill until he met with his fatal attack.

Samuel Snyder was of English descent. He came to Brady township from Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837, and lived in West Unity the remainder of his life. He was the father of the late Dr. I. M. Snyder of Montpelier.

William Hendricks McGrew was born February 22, 1796, in Adams county, Pennsylvania, where he received a very fair education. He came to Williams county with his wife and children, in 1836, and settled about two miles south of West Unity. Not a stick had been cut by way of clearing the land. He put up a cabin, into which he moved before doors or windows had been put in, and here, surrounded by wolves and other wild animals, he resided until he had cleared up 140 acres. He served nine years as justice of the peace of Brady, and as township trustee fifteen consecutive years, and was always a public-spirited man. In October, 1865, he retired from his farm to West Unity, where he enjoyed for the remainder of his life that repose which comes of well-doing.

The experiences of the early settlers were similar, regardless of locality, and, to some extent, without regard to wealth. Necessaries of life, as we of later generations class them, were not to be procured, by reason of the great distance to be traveled and hazards encountered in reaching the older settlements. The forest supplied the meats, for the most part, as it did, also, the fruits and sugar. Coffee and tea were luxuries seldom used. This is mentioned to show the simple fare which satisfied the demands of the times. A dinner of corn bread alone, or of meat without bread, was a common repast. Often the corn was pounded on a stone, or in a mortar, and thus prepared for cooking before the open fire-place, and no doubt there are those living to-day who remember the relish with which they devoured grandmother's "pone." Potatoes were early raised, but had not become a household necessity as now. Maple sugar and syrup were among the old-time luxuries easily obtained. The cabins usually had a "shake" roof, fastened on by weight poles, with a clay or puncheon floor and a door made of boards split from native timber and fastened together with wooden pins, or, in the absence of this, a blanket hung in the opening; if a window was provided, the aperture was covered with greased paper instead of glass. The dimensions of the cabin were usually limited to the smallest size which would accomodate the family, the walls of rough logs, cracks "chinked" with split sticks or stones and plastered with clay, with sometimes a little cut straw mixed in the "mortar" to prevent its falling out. The chimney was usually the most liberal arrangement on the premises, and often filled nearly the entire end of the cabin. It was generally built of split sticks liberally plastered with mud to prevent their taking fire from the heat of the tremendous "log-heap" beneath. In those days, there was no scarcity of fuel, as the timber had to be removed before the land could be cultivated, and the logs which could not be utilized in making rails or constructing buildings, were rolled together in great heaps and consumed on the ground. With the advent of sawmills and various other appliances for manufacturing lumber, as devised by the ingenious pioneers, the best of the timber was usually worked into lumber.

A "full-dress" suit in those days consisted of buckskins, over a flax shirt, and moccasins for the feet, the latter sometimes "reinforced" by a sole of stiff leather fastened on with buckskin thongs. These were all the product of home industry, even to the raising, heckling, scutching, spinning, weaving and making of the flaxen garments.

The pioneer shoemaker, gunsmith and blacksmith were welcome adjuncts of the early settlements, as were, also, the back-woods schoolmasters and preachers. The first schools were conducted on the subscription plan, and usually embraced only the rudiments of the "three R's." The "master" taught twenty-two days for a month at a salary of about eight dollars per month, and "boarded around." He was oftener selected because of his muscular development than on account of his scholastic attainments, though both were considered essential to complete success. The unruly boys of pioneer days were prone to mischief, and happy indeed was the schoolmaster who escaped "barring out," for a treat, on holidays. Should the master arrive in the morning before a sufficient number of the belligerents reached the scene of hostilities, they would smoke him out by placing boards over the chimney. The school "furniture" was in keeping with that which adorned the homes of the pupils, entirely home made, and of the variety created for utility rather than beauty. The desks were puncheons, or at best planks, resting on wooden pins driven into augur holes in the logs of the wall. These were bored at an angle of about thirty degrees. Fronting the desks were stationary seats made of slabs or puncheons, with flaring legs of wooden pins; and these were made high enough to accommodate the largest pupils, while the smaller ones sat with their feet dangling in mid-air. Usually there was no floor in the schoolhouse, and globes and outline maps were unknown to the pupils and a mystery to the masters. The "text books" comprised Dabol's arithmetic and Webster's elementary spelling book These covered the curriculum of reading and spelling, mathematics, language and literature, history and science. The ancient "pot hooks," more difficult to form than any letter in the alphabet, comprised the first lessons in writing, but were never heard of afterward. There was no system by which these characters were made, hence each "master" had a "system" of his own. Sundry boxing of ears and other barbarous punishments often followed the pupil's futile efforts at imitating these useless hieroglyphics. And yet we must credit the pioneer schools with producing a class of plain and neat writers, a feature very noticeable and often commented upon in the reading of ancient documents. It is equally true that most of the students of those early days were excellent spellers, according to the rules then in vogue. But the primitive schools of pioneer days have long since been succeeded by the excellent school system so nicely provided for, in part at least, by the reservation of a portion of the public domain for that purpose.

West Unity is the principal village in Brady township. It is located north and west of the center of the township, and of course is in the eastern part of the county. The town was surveyed and laid out by John Rings, who at that time owned the greater portion of what is now the village. It is pleasantly located on elevated and comparatively level ground. In 1835, there were but one or two small clearings in the forest, but each year after the town was established some settlers were attracted to it. While West Unity had no phenomenal growth, its progress was steady and substantial. The population has been nearly stationary for the last twenty years, increase in that direction being retarded to some extent by the advent of railroads in nearby towns. West Unity was incorporated by act of the state legislature in 1866. The first officers elected under the new regime were: H. H. Peppard, Mayor; Dr. G. W. Finch, Dr. J. N. Runnion, J. M. Webb, George Rings and J. Cline, councilmen; C. W. Skinner, clerk.

One of the early Justices of the Peace in Williams county was Jabez Jones of Pulaski township, and he solemnized the marriage of George Johnson to Hannah Donutt, the first marriage in Brady township of which there is any record. George Johnson, who is mentioned in this connection, was a native of Lincolnshire, England, who emigrated to this country about 1832. He settled on Tiffin River, in Fulton county, and entering land, built a cabin and began clearing. In about 1840, he and his brother, William, secured a mill privilege on Tiffin River (or Bean Creek) from the state, and erected a sawmill, and later, a grist-mill, known for years as the "Johnson Mills". He died at his home in Fulton county, November 28, 1855. Mr. Johnson was the father of Hon. Solomon Johnson, of Springfield township.

The first white child born in West Unity was Susan Rings, but the first birth in Brady township was that of Charles Coleman. The earliest recorded death is that of Maria L. Dunscomb.

In 1836, Walter Coleman built the first grist-mill in the township, but prior to that the Perkins Mill had been established on Beaver Creek at Pulaski, and thither the inhabitants of Brady brought their grists to be ground. Some years later a mill was erected at West Unity by Rings, Dawson, Calvin & Vail. Though inexpensive in construction, these early mills relieved the settlers of a vast amount of labor and perplexity. The "pounding stone" and primitive mortar and pestle were relegated to the back-yard, while the quality of the prepared material was much improved. The Mr. Dawson, mentioned above, became a few years later the manager of the Unity Mills, which were erected in 1865 as a flouring mill and woolen factory, where the best of flour is manufactured and woolen goods of excellent quality and fine texture are woven. This has proved a real blessing to the people.

West Unity has progressed along social and literary lines, as well as in the affairs of general business. A lodge of Masons was organized in August, 1849; the first newspaper, under the title of "Equal Rights", was established in April, 1849, by W. A. Hunter. The history of this early newspaper venture is given elsewhere; but after a lapse of several years, C. F. and J. W. Grisier launched the "Eagle" in 1878. This paper is still in existence, although its name has been changed to "Reporter", and its present editor is Olin Kenyon. The town boasts of an excellent school, in which the patrons take great interest. For many years it was taught by E. P. Ewers, a prominent educator of Williams county.

For many years after the settlement of the township, religious exercises were conducted by the traveling ministers of various denominations, usually at private houses, or in the school houses of the township. The first religious organization in West Unity was that of the Universalist Church, and it had a regular visiting minister as early as 1846. The Presbyterians organized a congregation, consisting of about twenty members, in 1851. In addition to these, there were regularly organized Methodist Episcopal and United Brethren churches, with regular circuit services. The United Brethren was the first church building erected in West Unity, and the bell in the tower the first to call the people to worship. But the Methodist Episcopal Church followed closely in the wake in each and all the enterprises named. The houses of some of the members of these churches were two, three, and even four miles from their places of worship, and it was no uncommon thing in that day for people to walk, or ride behind an "ox-team" to church, while others, more fortunate in being the possessors of horses and lumber wagons, were enabled to drive in a very good style.

Brady is one of the most wealthy and prosperous townships in Williams county. Agriculture being the principal industry, and in fact almost the exclusive occupation of the people, it has received careful and throughtful attention, and the farmers are equipped for the varied branches of agricultural pursuits, including extensive stock raising and fruit-growing. Early attention was given to the introduction of improved strains of domestic animals, and this has proved a source of pleasure and profit. The well tilled farms, with their substantial residences of modern design, or the old and well built mansions of more ancient days, together with an occasional log house or unpretentious cabin, all evince the varying degrees of prosperity attained by their owners and emphasize the fact that "there is no place like home". The inhabitants are a class of intelligent, public-spirited people, who, in several instances, trace their lineage, with just pride, to the founders of the great republic whose perpetuity they are ever ready to defend. The villages of Brady township, notwithstanding that for many years they were isolated from railroads, are inhabited by a class of progressive people where all the varied interests of mercantile and mechanical life are carried on successfully, and in accordance with the demands of the agricultural community which they serve. In addition to the numerous religious and educational institutions previously mentioned, the civic societies are also well represented, thus enhancing the social interests and contributing to the relief of the unfortunate.

Lockport, located about four miles southeast of West Unity, was the first town platted in Brady township. It was a beautiful little town, but the growth of its rival seemed to be at Lockport's expense, and it gradually grew smaller in importance as West Unity grew larger. The first saw-mill and the first post-office in Brady township were located at Lockport. The first merchant there was A. F. Hull, who brought a stock of goods from Maumee City; but all industries have long since departed, and in appearance Lockport now calls to mind Goldsmith's "Deserted Village".

CHAPTER XVII

CENTRE TOWNSHIP

THIS township was established by order of the county commissioners on the 7th day of March, 1836. Its boundaries are regular, and on the south it borders on Defiance county. The commissioners' order in establishing the township reads as follows: "The Board order that original surveyed townships, Nos. 6 and 7 north, and north to the state line between Ohio and Michigan, commonly called Harris [line], in range 2 east, be erected and incorporated into a township to be called Centre township; and it is further ordered that the inhabitants of said township of Centre meet on the first Monday of April, next, at the house of Jacob Dillman, and proceed to elect according to law, the necessary officers to organize said township." The names of the first officers who were elected at the residence of Jacob Dillman in April, 1836, are no longer remembered.

Centre as a whole may be characterized as level and unbroken land. What valleys there are, are narrow and bounded by small hillsides. The soil is generally as fertile as elsewhere in the county, and there are some fine farms in the township. They consist of the rich deposit of sandy loam, occasionally mixed with gravel, very productive, that was placed there during the prehistoric glacial period.

The streams in Centre are Lick Creek and several tributaries, and Lost Creek has its source in the southern part of the township. The streams are short, but the territory is well watered, particularly in the southern and eastern portions of the township. Centre is well adapted to grazing purposes, as well as farming, and the industry receives careful attention, with favorable results. Fruit culture is also carried on very profitably, apples being the staple in that line, though all kinds of small fruits succeed admirably. The surface of the township was originally covered with heavy timber, including all the varieties usually found in the county, and the dense forest afforded a hiding place for all kinds of game.

Centre township was settled a few years before the township was organized, the territory then being attached to St. Joseph. A number of the earliest settlers removed from the malaria-infested bottoms of the Maumee to the higher and more healthful lands. This movement was noticed in the settlement of other townships, but the valleys are now considered as healthy as any other locations.

During the summer or autumn of 1833, Mrs. Mary Leonard, a widow, came with her family to Centre township. She was accompanied by James Overleas, Sebastian Frame and John Hickman, all three of whom were her sons-in-law. The four families located in the southeastern part of the township and began to prepare homes from the heavy woods. Mrs. Leonard had a large family of nearly grown-up children, and with the assistance of her sons and sons-in-law encountered no serious drawbacks in the creation of a comfortable home. These families came from Montgomery county, Ohio, with three or four wagons, each drawn by two yoke of oxen, and loaded with such household goods as would be needful in the new home. Members of the family had come to the township some time before to select and enter suitable tracts of land, upon which they designed to locate. This was very probably done during the spring of 1833, and were, so far as known, the first tracts entered in the township, though not the only ones entered during the same year. Sebastian Frame was a man of considerable ability and had been ordained an elder in the Dunkard church. Unquestionably the first religious exercises in the township were conducted by him, either at his own home or at the cabin of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Leonard. The members of the four families often met during the severe winter of 1833-34, to worship, and to talk over the means of meeting successfully the difficult problems of pioneer life. Upon their arrival in the township, the families had at first lived in their wagons and under the shelter of rude temporary abodes, built of poles, brush and blankets, while the men went to work to construct rough cabins of round logs. Pleasant was the task of removing to their cabins, humble though they were. These were probably the only persons residing in Centre during the year 1833. In January, 1834, Joel Kinsey came from Montgomery county, Ohio, entered the northwest quarter of section 35, erected on the same a small log cabin and began the destruction of the timber on his land. Two or three months later, George Skinner appeared and entered the east half of the southeast quarter of section 34. He likewise built a cabin and made some improvements; but, in October of the same year, sold his land to Jacob Dillman, and removed from the township, going, no one knew whither. Mr. Dillman, a man who afterward was very prominent in township affairs, had come from Stark county, Ohio, during the spring of 1834, and had selected a tract of land in the eastern part of the township, upon which were favorable facilities for a fine water-power. He returned to Stark county, but the sudden death there of a man whom he had expected would operate his prospective mill altered his plans somewhat, and when he again came to Centre township he purchased the Skinner farm. A few acres had been underbrushed by Mr. Skinner, who had sown thereon what he thought was clover seed, but what soon proved to be Canada thistle seed. The ground was soon covered with this pest, which was not wholly eradicated for years.

Jacob Dillman was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent; was a wheelwright by trade; went to Canada when a young man, afterward moving to Summit county, Ohio, where he remained, working at his trade, until his removal to Williams county. In 1834 he started west through Ohio to look up a mill location and was attracted to Williams county by its bright prospects. When he decided to locate here he brought out a stock of goods that would be needed in a new country. He came to the county a comparatively wealthy man and with his wealth did more for the general welfare of the county than perhaps any other one man. He took an active part in the building of churches, schools, etc., and built the first schoolhouse in Centre township with his own means. He built the first steam saw-mill in the county, and was active in the support of the county agricultural society at its organization; and in fact, all matters of a public benefit found in him a warm supporter. He was a temperance man in principle, a rare thing among our pioneers, who deemed pure corn juice a necessity; was a member of the United Brethren Church and a Republican in politics. He continued a long life of usefulness and died in March, 1870, beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

Jacob Fetters was born in Pennsylvania, June 22, 1792, and served for some time as a soldier in the War of 1812. Shortly after he removed with his young wife to Montgomery county, Ohio, and thence in 1836, to Williams county, settling with his family on section 27, Centre township, on the farm where George Fetters afterwards resided; and there he departed this life December 19, 1836.

Bannister Poole was born in Virginia, in 1784, and in early manhood removed to Pennsylvania, where he remained for some time and then moved to Stark county, Ohio. A few years later he removed to Summit county, and then, in 1836, came to Williams county and lived the remainder of his life in Centre township.

Jacob Neihart was born in Centre county, Pennsylvania, in 1795. In early life he removed to Holmes county, Ohio, and, in 1837, came to Centre township, Williams county, and settled on section 21, where he died in March, 1871.

William Sheridan was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, August 9, 1801. He there went to school and also served an apprenticeship at blacksmithing. In 1826 he moved to Pittsburg, where he followed his trade until 1833, and then moved to Stark county, Ohio, where he also engaged in blacksmithing and continued thereat until 1840, when he came to Williams county and settled on the farm of 151 acres in Centre township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was the father of William Sheridan, Jr., who became quite prominent in political affairs of the county, district and State.

Bentley Hannon was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, Feb. 7, 1810. At the age of nineteen years he began learning to be a stone mason; served two years and then went to Pittsburg, where he worked as a journeyman. He then removed to Ohio and for three years farmed in Columbiana county, but in 1837, he removed to Williams county and settled on an eighty-acre farm which he had entered the previous year. He lived there until his death.

The first school was taught by an old gentleman named Barney, while Thomas Hill, William Neavill and Edgar Hubbard were among the earliest pioneer teachers. There are now ten public schools in the township.

Early ministers in the locality were Revs. Money, Thompson, Lindsey, Ray Boyer, Miller, Perky, Henderson and Barkdoll. The labors of these were supplemented by several active local preachers and exhorters among the early pioneers.

Centre is an exclusively agricultural township. There are no towns or villages of importance, and no manufacturing industries, aside from a few shops. Melbern is a little village in the west central portion of the township, and Williams Centre is near the southern boundary line. Each contains a store or two, a church, mechanical shops and a few residences. The population has remained stationary for many years, since Bryan and Edgerton, with their better market facilities, have cut off the trade. Two or three saw mills were operated in the township in the early days. The pioneer distilleries also had an existence, Jacob Householder being the first to engage in the liquor manufacturing business. In quite an early day he constructed a small distillery in the eastern part of the township, on the old Neihart farm. The small quantity of whisky made was consumed as fast as it came from the still. But this has long since passed out of existence.

CHAPTER XVIII

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP

THIS was one of the townships that was attached to St. Joseph when the latter was erected; and prior to the organization of Bridgewater, Northwest and Superior, it included all the territory now embraced by them. When originally organized, Florence township was described as follows: "All the territory belonging to Town seven, Range one; also, Town seven, Range two, and including all the territory north to the State line." The commissioners ordered an election to be held for the necessary officers on the first Monday of April, 1837, and hence this was the date of the organization of the township. The names of the officers who were elected in the spring of 1837, to administer the civil affairs of old Florence township, are no longer remembered; neither can it be learned who first served after the township was cut down to its present limits. In March, 1839, Bridgewater was organized, to include the present Bridgewater and Northwest townships, and at the same session, Superior, as it now is, was created, thus leaving Florence with its present limitations.

The surface of the township is gently undulating in some parts and quite level in others. The soil is a very fertile black loam in some districts on the bottoms and streams, and a rich clay soil elsewhere. There is comparatively little waste land in the township, and the condition of the farms, buildings and surroundings are indicative of thrift and prosperity. The streams which drain the township are Bear Creek and its tributaries, with numerous runs which empty into them, and Eagle Creek, in the northern part of the township. The St. Joseph River flows through the southeastern corner.

Florence township was mainly covered with heavy timber, though there was originally considerable marshy land upon which there was only shrubs and brush. But the wet lands have been recovered by ditching and under-tiling, until they are very valuable and highly productive. It is said that this boggy land originally seemed like earth floating on water, and that in the early days a pole could be forced into it to a depth of twenty feet.

The principal varieties of timber were black walnut, sugar maple, elm, ash, oak, beech and hickory. Some of the choicest timber was used for buildings, making rails, and sawing into lumber, but much of it which would now be very valuable, was burned in clearing the land.

Among the first to establish a home in the bounds of Florence township was the Singer family. David Singer, the first, was a farmer; married Margaret Kragore, came to Ohio and located in Florence township in 1837, and entered one-half section of government land. His son, David Singer, the second, was the first white child born in Florence township. This event happened in 1839. The senior David Singer deserves more credit than perhaps any other man for the hardships himself and family endured, to create a home in the dense forests of Florence. Mr. Singer came to this part of the state in 1836, locating his farm on Section 9, and during the winter of 1836-37, erected a log cabin about forty rods north of where the family residence was in later years. In the meantime, his family lived a short time at Denmark, and later with Robert McDaniel, who then lived on Section 30, Superior township. In February, 1837, the family took up their residence in their new home, on Section 9. They were very poor, as almost everybody was then, but they had good health and did not hesitate to face a reasonable amount of privation and toil. At that time there was not a neighbor residing any nearer to them than five miles, and their little home was surrounded, on all sides, by an almost impassable wilderness, filled with wild and savage beasts and with scarcely less savage Indians. It was all the family could do at first to live. At one time, for four weeks, they lived without any bread whatever, their only food consisting of rice soup and wild meat. These extreme privations did not last long, fortunately, for if they had the family would have gone back to their old home farther east. They soon were enabled to feed and clothe themselves, and were then about as well situated as most of the earliest settlers. There was no such thing as caste in early times; the settlers were like brothers, for all were poor. Mr. Singer became belated in returning home one night from Denmark, and a heavy storm coming on, he became bewildered and lost. In vain he endeavored to trace his way, as the thick darkness and heavy rain descended. The more he tried, the more uncertain he became that he was moving in the right direction. At last he saw that the wisest course was to sit down on a log and wait, either until he was certain of his steps or until morning had dawned. There he sat all night long, with the cold rain beating upon him and the dreary winds sweeping by him in chilling gusts and eddies. When morning dawned, he was soon beside a roaring fire, something which every settler had with no cost save labor. After a few years, the Singers were in better circumstances. They, on one occasion, owned a fine sow, which had a large family of pigs, and these animals were permitted to sleep against the side of the cabin (on the outside) that they might be protected from wolves and bears. One dark night, when Mr. Singer was away and no one was at home save Mrs. Singer and her little children, the wolves, rendered desperate by hunger, came up to the cabin to attack the sow and pigs. Mrs. Singer resolutely sallied forth with a large fire brand and drove them away, and then the settler's wife saw that if she saved her animals she must guard them with fire all night. A fire was kindled near the cabin, close to the swine, and was kept replenished all night, but the sow and pigs were saved.

The above facts concerning Mr. Singer are taken from Goodspeed's history of Williams county, published nearly a quarter of a century ago, and as such incidents were common, they are, no doubt, substantially correct. As the experiences of the early pioneers were alike in nature, only occasionally differing in the degree of danger and privation, the following statements of hunting exploits will suffice for a further description of early times, not only in Florence, but every township of the county: Mr. Singer, though not the best hunter in the world (as the expression goes), was quite skillful with his rifle and generally kept his cabin supplied with wild meat. He killed many deer and a few bears. One day, while he was at work in the woods near his cabin, he was approached by Phillip Nihart, who hurriedly told him that he had treed a bear out in the woods, about half a mile distant, and wanted his assistance in killing it. The two settlers, armed for the fight, went to the tree as fast as they could and found the animal still in the branches. A couple of shots brought it to the ground, dead. On another occasion, not far from the year 1845, Mrs. Singer, who was standing outside her cabin, saw some black animal, about as large as a small dog, walking on the top of a rail fence near by. She approached and saw with surprise that it was a cub. Calling to her husband and two or three other men who were chopping near by, she ran up and caught the little animal by the back of the neck, and despite its growls and struggles, ran with it to the cabin. The men came up, and, coming to the natural conclusion that the mother of the cub was not far distant, resolved to find her if possible. The next day, while hunting, the men found a hollow tree that looked as if it might contain a bear, and while cutting it down, scared a porcupine, which ran out of a large hole high up in the tree. The men at first thought that this must be the animal that had made the scratches on the side of the tree; but, the tree being so near down, the cutting was continued and the first thing the chopper knew the report of a rifle rang out on the air and a large bear fell to the ground, within five feet of him, dead. The animal had come out of the opening above, and was seen by Mr. Singer, who brought it to the ground with one shot. The cub was kept for some time and finally sold for fifty cents and was taken East.

Mr. Singer was quite a bee hunter and his cabin table was often graced with a fine dish of strained and candied honey. One day, the Indians, who were encamped on the creek about thirty rods east of the second David Singer's former residence, wounded a bear which crawled into a hollow log and could not be dislodged. One of their number who had come from Canada, and whom they did not like, was told that he was too cowardly to enter the log by crawling and pull the wounded bear out by the leg. It was thought to be alive and full of fight, but after a little time he entered the log, head first, and soon emerged, pulling the animal, which was dead, out by the leg. One day, one of the Indians got drunk and declared that he would kill his squaw, attempting to put his threat into execution. Several Indians came to Mr. Singer and begged him to interfere, which he accordingly did, and, with their help, bound the desperate savage hand and foot. The mosquitoes were very bad and pestered the savage to such an extent that he soon came to his senses and demanded that his bands be taken off; but this was refused until his complete sobriety was assured and his promises were given that he would behave himself. Every year Mrs. Singer smoked many venison hams on shares for the Indians. John Singer and David Singer, Jr., wounded a deer one day, and while trying to cut its throat were knocked back by the animal, which sprang to its feet and ran off through the woods. It was afterwards caught with the assistance of the dogs. For years the Singer family had a pet deer with a bell around its neck, which was used as a decoy in hunting. It would meet other deer in the woods and bring them close to the cabin, where they could easily be shot from some place of concealment.

Samuel Cain came from Richland county, Ohio, and located in Florence township in 1838, thus becoming one of the pioneers of Williams county. He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1810. He moved to Harrison county, Ohio, in 1829, and there resided for two years; thence he moved to Stark county, where he remained for six years; thence to Richland, where he passed one year. He then started for DeKalb county, Indiana, but an accident detained him at Napoleon, Ohio, and he remained there until 1838, when he came to Florence township, as stated above, and entered ninety-three acres of land on Section No. 1. He was about the second permanent settler in the present limits of Florence township, and all around him was a wilderness. He disposed of his property in 1844, and bought eighty acres near by, on which he resided until 1866, when he moved to Northwest township and ended his days there. Mr. Cain used to tell many interesting hunting incidents. One day he broke an ox-yoke and went to William Van Fossen's to get another. While on the way, his dog discovered a cub and chased it, growling, into the top of a tree. The mother bear appeared upon the scene at this juncture and charged furiously upon the dog, which nimbly got out of her way. She passed close to Mr. Cain and he swung his hat at her, causing her to veer around him and run into a swamp, disappearing from his view. Mr. Cain had no gun with him, but he went some distance and called to Nelson Clark's boys, who lived in Superior township, and they came up and shot the cub. On still another occasion, Mr. Cain, John Anspaugh and Jacob Anspaugh were walking in the fresh snow, near the tamarack swamp in the northeast corner of the township, when they discovered a fresh bear track They immediately called their dogs, which followed the bear into the swamp and soon treed it there. John Anspaugh was the first to reach the tree, and, at the first shot brought the animal to the ground. It proved to be a young bear and its flesh was very tender and sweet. Many stories, similar to those given, might be narrated concerning the pioneers of every township, but these will suffice to show what sport the early settlers enjoyed.

Nathan Disbrow was a native of Seneca county, New York, born February 24, 1813.The early portion of his life was passed on the farm and consequently he received but a meager education. His parents moved to Allegheny county, New York, and thence to Canada, where Nathan remained until 1838, when he went to Huron county, New York; then came to Williams county, where he purchased land and removed to Superior township in 1839. In 1840, he disposed of this farm and removed to Florence township, where he spent the remainder of his life. There were then no improvements and he was obliged to clear a space to build a cabin 16x16, in which he lived a number of years. The forest was filled with wild beasts, whose howlings could be heard nearly all night, and these animals preyed upon the sheep belonging to the settlers. It took two days to reach the mill, and the nearest postoffice was Pulaski.

The Thomas family were early settlers of the township, locating in the extreme northwestern part, where they enterd land, and where the parents, Moses Thomas and wife, spent the remainder of their lives. The children were David, who yet lives in Florence township; Joseph W., deceased; Rebecca J., who is the widow of Joseph W. Back, and lives in Montpelier; Benjamin, deceased; William, a resident of Lucas county, Ohio; Deborah, the widow of Ira Bratton, and lives in Angola, Indiana; Albert P., of Montpelier; Richard, killed at the battle of Resaca; Mary, the widow of Sylvester Graves, now residing in Oklahoma; Sarah Ann, the wife of John Maxwell, of Stockton, California, and James C., who for years past has been a resident of Chicago. The family originally came from Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where seven of the eleven children were born. They first migrated to Crawford county, Ohio, and thence, in 1840, to Florence township, where, the year previous, Moses Thomas had entered the southeast quarter of Section 32. Many descendants of Mr. Thomas live in Williams and adjoining counties.

Thomas Burke and wife, with a family of four children, came from Columbiana county and settled in Florence township, in 1841. Mrs. Burke's failing health caused them to decide to return to their former home, but ere they could reach it, Death claimed his victim and the children were motherless. Mr. Burke returned to Williams county in 1843, and resided here until his death, in 1866. Some of his descendants still reside in the township.

Florence enjoys the distinction of being one of the best agricultural townships in Williams county. Its soil is especially adapted to diversified farming and fruit growing, in which pursuits, combined with stock raising, the intelligent and industrious farmers have met with phenomenal success. The pleasant homes and thrifty surroundings are abundant proof of this, while an occasional handsome mansion, with modern improvements and appliances, affirms the conclusion that even in this favored land some have been more successful than their worthy rivals. Aud thus it will ever be, so long as accumulated wealth is the measure of success and Cunning sits upon the throne that Merit should occupy.

Edon and Blakeslee are the only villages in the township, and Edon is the sixth town, as regards population, in Williams county. For a number of years prior to the establishment of the town, the contiguous territory, and even the town site, contained a number of settlers. The land upon which Edon is located was originally owned by Henry Stuller, John Garwood and Thomas Smith, who occupied it in 1852. Henry Stuller came to this county in the above year and settled near the present town site on timber-covered land, which was transformed, however, by the united labor of father and sons, into a comfortable home. Here, Henry Stuller died, in 1864, aged fifty-seven years. Soon after that date Andrew Sheline came into possession of a tract upon which the principal corner of "Mudsock" was located, and in 1874, the village was regularly incorporated and christened Edon. Andrew Sheline was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1819. He came with his parents to Carroll county, Ohio, in 1824, and resided there until 1855, when he came to Williams county and here spent the remainder of his life. He was both carpenter and farmer, but did not confine himself to any one business. Seeing the opportunity for a broader field of enterprise in the building up of the West, he laid the foundation of the present village of Edon, building the first dry-goods and grocery stores, cabinet shop and doctor's office in the place. He also erected the first grist mill and woolen factory in Florence township, and the second sawmill, and was also the owner of a fine farm of eighty acres. He was the proprietor of a hotel as soon as Edon needed one, but in later years he disposed of his hotel and factory interests and retired to private life for the rest and quiet from activity he so deservedly merited.

A man named Herbert bought a lot of Andrew Sheline, about 1856, put up a little store building and began selling from a stock of notions, valued at about seventy-five dollars. He built an ashery and conducted it and the store until his death, a few years later. Robert Smith located at Edon, about 1857-58, bought a lot, built a store house and placed therein about $1,000 worth of a general assortment of goods. Two or three years later, his goods went to George Huber, who did a lucrative business with his store and with his sale of liquor. In about 1866 or 1867, he sold to Cook & Eichelberger, both of whom retired from the business in a few years. Klink Bros. probably went into the same room with a stock of goods next; but, after a few years, built the hardware store room, and, in about 1869 or 1870, sold to C. S. Garrison and C. A. Bowersox. Mr. Bowersox sold out to Garrison, who was in business there for a great many years. Curtis S. Garrison was a native of Ohio, born in Portage county, July 27, 1835. He was left an orphan at an early age, and when but eleven years old, began life for himself by working on a canal, where he remained for six summers. Shortly after this, he engaged in peddling for some time, removing to Williams county in 1854, where he took a clerkship in Edgerton, remaining there most of the time until 1869. In 1861, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry for the three months' service. He was a resident of Edon for many years, and proprietor of a large establishment.

One of the religious landmarks of the community is represented by the Methodist Episcopal church, now located in the town of Columbia, Northwest township, but originally established in the northern part of Florence township, in 1843. The society was formed in the year above mentioned, and as soon as the school house in the northwestern corner of Florence was built, services were held there, and later in the school house at Columbia. Eight members constituted the organizing force, the names being as follows: James Coon and wife, James McClarren and wife, Martin Perky and wife, J. R. McConnell and Benjamin Thomas. Rev. James Alderman was engaged as pastor, and from that day to the present, the organization has been maintained, and three generations of people have been communicants around the same altar. As the years passed other families of like faith located in the neighborhood and added their names and influence to the church directory. From its earliest inception, this congregation began to assume a position of prominence in the community, and under the pastorates of Revs. Everhart, Cameron, Dunham, Thompson and Olds, great revivals were conducted.

Martin Perky was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1819. He was reared and educated in Seneca county, Ohio, and followed farming there until 1839, when he came to this county and located in Florence township, where he entered 140 acres of government land and resumed his vocation as farmer. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church as stated above, in 1843, and, in 1853, joined the North Ohio Methodist Episcopal Conference, and from then until about 1865, was engaged in pastoral work over northwestern Ohio. In 1861, he was appointed chaplain of the Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and remained with it until the fall of 1862, when ill-health caused him to resign. In 1865, he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Pioneer. He sold out in 1878, having been elected probate judge of Williams county, to which position he was re-elected in 1881, and again in 1884.

J. R. McConnell was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, March 1, 1811, and passed his early years in working on a farm and at the joiners' trade. In 1835, he came west as far as Putnam county, Ohio, located in a township where there were but three white families, and there farmed until 1841, when he came to this county and settled in Northwest township, on the site of the present village of Columbia. In 1854, Mr. McConnell assisted William Rannels in platting and surveying the village, and there for ten years he kept hotel. In 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Captain E. J. Evans, and remained with his company nine months, when he was discharged on account of illness. He moved into Florence township, in 1864, and lived the remainder of his life there.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Edon was the outgrowth of an early religious effort in the central part of the township, where religious services of that denomination were held at a very early date, probably in the early 40's. Though a class was organized, and preaching and other services were held in an old cabin, no church building was erected until about 1848 or 1850. About that time, however, a hewed log church was built, and, with the true spirit of Christian tolerance, both the English Methodists and German Methodists joined in its construction. The hewed-log church was superseded by a frame structure more in keeping with the needs of the congregation, and this in turn gave place to a handsome brick structure erected in 1878. Among the earlist members of this church were George Donutt and John J. Webb, and several others whose names cannot be given. It had a successful career as one of the principal churches of the township.

The educational interests of Edon have ever been a paramount consideration, and no town of its size in the state has a better system of public schools, or more appreciative or helpful patrons.

Of the social orders the Odd Fellows are the pioneers. Florence Lodge, No. 545, was organized July 1, 1873. The charter members were James Pollit, J. W. Thomas, Henry King, Samuel Keiss, O. B. Johnson, W. H. Hillard, Joseph Garwood, John Zimmerman, John Friend, J. W. Stuller, John Bordner, Frederick Mocherman and David Keiss. The first elective officers were John Friend, N. G.; David Keiss, V. G.; Henry King, treasurer, and O. B. Johnson, secretary. The lodge is in a prosperous condition financially, having sufficient funds to meet all obligations in a beneficial way.

Edon Lodge, No. 474, A. F. & A. M., is another society which has had a career of prominence, usefulness and popularity. It was instituted July 17, 1873, with the following named charter members: J. G. Cameron, Emmet Burke, John Aller, C. S. Garrison, Norman Relyea, J. A. Headley, J. D. McConneli, Frederick Coldsnow, Edwin Powers, H. S. Hine, William Malcolm, Robert Laugheed, C. A. Headley, G. B. Near, James Thorne, T. J. Fetterhoof, Jacob Haughey, S. Spangler, John Willibee, Jr., G. W. Lindersmith, Thomas Davis, D. Isenhart, Sylvester Isenhart, W. J. Purdy, Hezekiah Edwards, Sr., Hezekiah Edwards, Jr., T. J. Burlew, Hiram Hoadley, Jr., Fred Hardenbrook, C. McKillen, Henry Cassler, and Simon Bookmiller.

In the town of Edon the various business and mechanical industries are carried on, and the handsome little village bustles with busy life. The only monetary institution is the Edon Banking Company. In 1892, a number of prominent capitalists of the county effected the organization of this popular concern, which has steadily grown in public favor. The capitalization was ten thousand dollars, though the institution is backed, through individual responsibility, with many times that amount. The first officers of the institution were Oscar Eaton, president; I. E. Gardner, vice-president, and Theo. S. Carvin, cashier. The institution transacts a general banking business and gives special attention to collections and buying bankable paper.

Besides the general representation of all phases of mercantile life, there are also quite extensive mechanical interests, of which the woolen factory is, perhaps, the most prominent. The town affords an excellent market in the grain, lumber and stock interests.

Blakeslee is an enterprising and busy trade center, located on the Wabash railroad, ten miles southwest of Montpelier, and in 1900 had a population of 239. It was laid out in 1882, by John Boman, at which time that branch of the Wabash was built.

CHAPTER XIX

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

THE county commissioners, on the 6th of June, 1837, erected Jefferson, bv the following official order: "It is ordered by the Board that Town seven, Range 3 east, also all the territory north to the Michigan line, is hereby set off from Beaver [Pulaski] Township, and the same is hereby erected and organized into a township by the name of Jefferson; and the Board order the Auditor to give notice for an election to be held at the house of Andrew Farrier, Junior, on the first Monday of July next. for the purpose of electing the necessary officers for the further organization of said township."

Thus it will be seen that all the territory comprised in the present township of Madison was at that time attached to Jefferson; but these boundaries were changed on the organization of Bridgewater and Millcreek townships in 1839, leaving Jefferson in its present rectangular form, bounded by four straight lines, six miles east and west, and a little more than seven miles north and south. The northern boundary is the "Fulton line," so called, and was the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan, according to the latter's contention. Brady township lies on the east and Superior on the west.

The surface of Jefferson township is unbroken and generally level. The drainage is principally toward the south, and the valleys of the small streams, with naturally higher adjoining land, are the only exceptions to the general application of the term. The territory is well watered, the principal stream being Beaver Creek, which rises in the northern part of the township and flows southward through the central portion of Jefferson to the village of Pulaski; thence through Pulaski into Springfield township, where it joins the Tiffin river. Leatherwood creek, with three branches, also has its source in Jefferson township, entering Brady, and near the southern boundary of the latter, also emptying its water into Bean creek. Little Beaver rises in the western part of the township and flows east until it empties into Beaver creek in section twenty-one. These streams are not large but they afforded water power for the early mills which were established along their banks.

Jefferson township was originally covered with all kinds of native timber, and the quality was of the best. The principal varieties were oak, hickory and maple, while black walnut, butternut, elm, sycamore, buckeye and willow were also quite plentiful.

The soil of this township is a heavy bed of clay overlying a subsoil of sand and gravel. Occasionally the sand appears upon the surface. The soil is very fertile and produces heavy crops of all kinds of cereals, and all the land of the township is made to yield profitable returns to the owners. Stock raising and fruit culture receives considerable attention, and these afford good margins of profit.

John Perkins was the first permanent settler in Jefferson township. This distinction has also been accorded him in relation to Pulaski township, but the double honor is accounted for in the fact that his allegiance was changed by the county commissioners without the necessity of his removal. He came from Brunersburg in the spring of 1833, and settled near where the village of Pulaski is now located. The same year he entered the whole of section thirty-four, in Jefferson township, and, it is said, erected his cabin in the southern portion of it. Neither Pulaski nor Jefferson had as yet been erected as townships, and when they were finally divided the township line was found to pass between Mr. Perkins' place of residence and the little village where his hopes of a future county seat and other aspirations had an abiding place. Accordingly, at the meeting of the board of commissioners, in August, 1837, it was ordered "that the south half of the south tier of sections in Town 7 north, Range 3 east [Jefferson], be taken from said town and added to town six in said range [Pulaski]." This arrangement only lasted for a few months when the old line was re-established, but it remained long enough to give the doughty Perkins the honor of being the first settler in two different townships without compelling him to go through the ordeal of moving his goods and chattels. Mr. Perkins was considerably interested in the boundary line, and desired to be considered a resident of Pulaski township, but it was doubtless due to county-seat reasons, and not to any feeling of prejudice against Jefferson. This relieves him of the suspicion of being actuated by motives, such as are ascribed to an old Virginia lady. Some years ago, North Carolina claimed that a re-survey of the boundary line between that state and the Old Dominion would add a strip of territory to her domain that had hitherto been considered a part of Virginia. The old lady in question happened to live on a part of the disputed strip, and was greatly concerned lest the proposed survey would make her a resident of the "Tar-heel" State. When asked the reason for her fears she replied, "I don't want to live in North Carolina, for I've always heard that it is so awfully unhealthy there."

Mr. Perkins was born in the State of Virginia about the year 1770; came to Ross county, Ohio, and married a Miss Dawson. The fruits of said marriage were three sons and four daughters. Isaac Perkins, one of the sons, came to Williams county with his father in 1818, and spent a long and useful life here. The family settled at Brunersburg, and John Perkins built the first mills there, but in 1833, sold the property to a Mr. Bruner, who subsequently laid out the village that bears his name. The settlement at Pulaski and Mr. Perkins' connection therewith are told of on other pages.

Eli Oliver settled in the township in the fall of 1833, coming from Pickaway county, Ohio. He has descendents who still reside in Jefferson township.

Jabez Jones was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, in June, 1792, and while young, he with his father's family, came to Ross county. He came to Jefferson township in the spring of 1834, and served as one of the first justices of the peace in Williams county. He was a soldier in the war of 1812 and was at Upper Sandusky (now Fremont) with General Harrison.

George W. Myers was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1808. His father was an Englishman by birth, who came to this country when a small boy, and in the latter part of the Revolution served in the Colonial army, and again in 1812, rendered his adopted country effective service. George W. Myers learned the carpenter and joiner's trade in Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, and in 1835 visited Jefferson township, Williams county, where he entered 160 acres of land, cleared three acres, sowed in wheat and put up a first rate log cabin, and in 1837 moved his family and his few household goods upon the place, and thus began life in the woods. In connection with farming he also worked at his trade and erected many substantial buildings throughout this county and Defiance. In the spring of 1855 he sold his property in Jefferson and removed to Bryan, with the intention of migrating further west, but after making a prospecting tour through Illinois, Iowa and Kansas, and finding nothing to suit him, he returned home and resumed his old occupations, secured a comfortable fortune, and later in life retired from active participation in affairs. The first farm owned by Mr. Myers is now owned by the county and the infirmary is located upon it. Mr. Myers was justice of the peace nine years in Jefferson township and filled various other offices.

Albert Opdycke, another of the soldiers of 1812, with R. H. Gilson, moved from Trumbull county, Ohio, and settled in Jefferson township. He was one of the hardy pioneers and reared a large family of boys, the children of some of whom are still living in the county. He cleared up a large farm, was loved and respected by all, and was twice elected commissioner of Williams county. He lived more than four score years, and was one of the pillars of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His house was the home of itinerant preachers, who were always welcome. Jacob Boyers moved from Crawford county, Ohio, in 1835, and settled on the farm so long owned by George Arnold, and known as the Andrew Smith farm. Mr. Boyers was energetic, loved to give and take a joke, was full of fun and enjoyed himself in the company of his friends. George W. Perky came from Hancock county, Ohio, and settled on a farm now owned by Martin V. Bible, one-half mile west of West Jefferson. He was smart but an oddity. Once, as one of his neighbors was passing, Perky was chopping out the road in a cat swamp. He remarked that, "We read that God divided the land from the water, but here is a place he forgot." Andrew Ferrier and his sons moved from Coshocton county in 1835, and erected the first grist mill in Jefferson township, on Beaver creek, in 1837.

Andrew Smith moved from Seneca county in 1835, and erected the first saw mill. He was a native of Ohio, but was descended from Irish ancestors. He was reared a farmer, and in 1834, emigrated from Coshocton to Seneca county, Ohio, and in May, 1835, removed to Williams county, then an almost impenetrable forest, and located in Jefferson township. He was among the first settlers in the county, and through years of continuous residence became a part of its history. He engaged in clearing and farming and continued the latter until the late years of his life, when he removed to Bryan and spent the remainder of his life there.

Henry Newman erected the second saw mill. Joseph Moudy moved from Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1835, and settled in Pulaski; thence removed to Jefferson township, and was there at the organization of the same, being elected township treasurer and justice of the peace. For fun, jokes and satire, his equal could not be found. Ephraim Plummer came from Ross county in the fall of 1834.

John Shankster, accompanied by his sons, moved from Ross county in 1835, and settled on the land which was occupied by him through life, southwest quarter of section twenty-eight. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1806, and in 1832 emigrated to America. He first located at Chillicothe, and in 1835 moved to Jefferson township where he entered eighty acres of land in the midst of the woods, where wild beasts abounded and the Indians far exceeded the whites in number. Through perseverance and industry, however, he succeeded in subduing the forest and securing a well cultivated farm of 160 acres, on which he in comfort passed his declining years.

Joseph Bush, later of Florence township, was one of the early settlers. John Snyder, John and William Barger, George D. Dorshimer, Jacob Andre, Joseph Engle, Turner Thompson and Isaac Fickle were among the first settlers of the township. The Bargers were natives of Portage county, Ohio. George D. Dorshimer was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, was reared a farmer and moved to Seneca county, Ohio, about 1835. From there, in February, 1838, he removed to Jefferson township and entered 200 acres of forest land, which he cleared up and on which he lived through a long and active life.

Isaac Fickle, another of the early pioneers of Jefferson township, located in the eastern part, some time prior to 1839. This statement is made certain by a fact which deserves more than a passing mention—his father, Benjamin Fickle, a Revolutionary soldier, died in Jefferson township in October, 1839, and was buried on the farm of his son. In April, 1888, the farm having passed into other hands and the hallowed burial place being neglected, the remains were removed and re-interred in the Fountain Grove cemetery at Bryan. In all probability Benjamin Fickle is the only Revolutionary patriot whose body found a resting place in the soil of Williams county; and this fact, even if no other reason is suggested, should prompt the citizens of the county to see that his grave is appropriately marked and his memory preserved for future generations. We can best exhibit our appreciation of American liberty by showing proper respect for the sainted ones who risked their lives to obtain it for us.

Thomas Reid, one of the first settlers of the township, was born in Cork, Ireland, and in early manhood came to America. He first located in Ross county, Ohio, where he followed farming for some time, and in 1835 came to Jefferson township. He settled on and cleared up the farm which is now owned by Sylvester Shiffler, and he resided there until the death of his wife, about 1860. He then lived with his son, George Reid, in Jefferson township, for several years, and then removed to Illinois. He spent the remainder of his days with another son, Jeremiah Reid, who lived near Arrowsmith, that state, dying there on May 16, 1875.

Henry Miller moved from Stark county, Ohio, and settled on the land in section thirteen, which was afterward known as the property of Martin L. Burns. Upon this place Mr. Miller subsequently started a carding machine which was operated by horsepower. It is very probable that the first settlers herein named have all joined the "silent majority," but many of their children and grandchildren are numbered among the good people of Williams county.

The first justice of the peace in Jefferson township was Thomas Reid, who was chosen at the first election, held July 2, 1837. The first schoolhouse was erected on the farm of Mr. Reid in the southern part of the township. Joel F. Pool, George W. Durbin and James Welch were early teachers. As the inhabitants increased, schools were opened from time to time, and there are now eleven buildings devoted to school purposes within the bounds of the township. These are good brick or frame structures, equipped with modern appliances and conducted by a corps of well qualified and practical teachers.

The most atrocious crime that blots the annals of Williams county was committed in Jefferson township. Reference has been made to it on different pages, but a detailed account has been reserved for this particular chapter. We refer to the murder of David, little son of Peter D. Schamp—who lived in the eastern part of the township on section twelve—by Daniel Heckerthorn and Andrew J. Tyler. The crime was committed June 20, 1847, on the farm owned by the little victim's father. Tyler was a roaming scoundrel who was temporarily stopping in this part of the country, and professed to be a fortune teller. He visited the home of Mr. Schamp, told the latter's fortune, then went to where Heckerthorn lived, and, after plying his vocation there, asked if Mr. Schamp was not a man possessed of considerable means. Receiving an affirmative answer, he told young Heckerthorn (who was only about seventeen years old and below the average in intelligence) that if he would kill David, the six-year-old son of Mr. Schamp, and hide the body in a secret place, both of them would get some money out of the affair. The proposed arrangement was that Heckerthorn was to give Tyler a description of the place where the boy's body was hidden, and then when Mr. Schamp came to the pretended seer for information concerning his child, a large sum would be exacted, out of which Heckerthorn should receive enough money to take him back to Wayne county, his former home. The proposition was accepted, and on the following Sunday morning, according to well laid plans, Heckerthorn went to the residence of Mr. Schamp, and, decoying the boy from the house, took him to the dense woods nearby and to the north of the dwelling. He gave him some candy with which arsenic had been mixed, but it seeming to be slow in its effects, Heckerthorn seized the boy by the heels and struck his head against a knot on a beech tree and killed him. He placed the body in a hollow log, covered it with rotten wood and then placed green brush over it. The boy was soon missed, and that same afternoon the search was commenced by some of the neighbors, excitement becoming general the following day. Monday night Schamp went to see Tyler to ascertain if he could tell of the whereabouts of the boy, and the conscienceless scoundrel said he was near water and under rotten wood and green brush. The excitement became greater; on Tuesday men and boys came from considerable distance to assist in the search, and by Thursday the woods for miles were full of people. In the afternoon of the day, however, suspicion fastened on Heckerthorn and Jacob Bohner, of Brady township, and Milton B. Plummer found Heckerthorn in hiding at his brother's house. He was taken into custody and soon made a confession, admitting the guilt of himself and Tyler. The same day, George Ely, who was then justice of the peace for Brady township, issued a warrant for the arrest of both of the men, and after a preliminary examination they were committed to the county jail.

At the fall term of the Court of Common Pleas they were separately indicted, and Tyler, as was his privilege under the old Constitution, elected to be tried by the Supreme Court, which then sat annually in each county. The old log jail at Bryan was not considered safe, and they were taken to Maumee City and were confined there until the fall of 1848, when Tyler was tried on a charge of murder in the first degree. Joshua Dobbs, the prosecuting attorney, was assisted by Charles Case, who was afterward a representative in Congress from Indiana, and Schuyler E. Blakeslee was the attorney for the defendant. The knot against which the little boy's head had been dashed was cut from the tree and brought into court as evidence, an inanimate accomplice in the awful crime.

Tyler was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on January 26, 1849. Daniel Langel was sheriff at the time, and he built an enclosure, in accordance with legal requirements, in which to execute the sentence, but on the evening of the 25th, the people demolished it and Tyler was hung in public view. At the November term of the Court of Common Pleas, in 1849, Heckerthorn was tried and found guilty, and also sentenced to hang, but on account of his youth and imbecility, the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, and about ten years later he was offered a conditional pardon by the governor, but what finally became of him is not known. It is certain, however, that he never returned to Williams county.

CHAPTER XX

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP

PREVIOUS to 1839, the territory of this township was a part of Florence. It was then organized as a separate township in conformity with the prayer of certain petitioners. The township comprises forty-one sections, but twelve of these are fractional. The St. Joseph river flows through the central portion of the township, and it is a very rich and valuable territory. Nettle Creek, Hudson Run and Clear Fork also take their course through the township, eventually joining the St. Joseph river, and they all enhance the value of the lands traversed, rendering them available for grazing purposes as well as farming.

Bridgewater township has had some evidences of the prehistoric race within her boundaries. Two large mounds were located on or near the land owned by John Lantz, on the bank of the St. Joseph, each circular in form, some six or seven feet in height, and fifty or sixty feet in diameter. On digging into one of them two human skeletons were found, one very large and the other of ordinary size. But the mounds have been leveled by the successive plowings of sixty years, aided by climatic erosion, and the casual observer would scarcely notice anything unusual in the conformation of the land.

The northern and eastern portions of Bridgewater township contain some broken and hilly land; but the comparatively wide valleys along the streams are a very fertile sandy loam terminating in clay on the hill sides. Taking the township as a whole, the quality of the soil is unsurpassed in the county, and some fine farms and excellent improvements attest the truth of this statement. The surface of the township was originally covered with a heavy growth of excellent timber, embracing the varieties usually found in this section of the state. These were white-oak, black-oak, hickory, walnut, wild cherry, beech, sugar maple, elm, ash, poplar, buckeye and sycamore. While some valuable timber is still preserved, by far the greater part of it was destroyed in fitting the land for cultivation. That which survived the pioneer log heaps has submitted to oft-repeated cullings for market purposes, or the personal needs of the owners, until at this time the territory where it grew thickest more resembles the treeless prairies of the west than the original home of a dense forest.

There are no villages in Bridgewater township, unless we except Bridgewater Center, and no railway invades her confines, yet there are two good trading points—Bridgewater Center and Ainger—where considerable business is transacted. Chandler Holt was the first postmaster in the township. Bridgewater Center was laid out in 1871 by A. T. Bement in the employ of Joseph Diebely, and the name of course was selected because it is almost the exact geographical center of the township. Twelve lots were laid out on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section twenty-seven, all being west of State street—three being south of School street and nine being north of the same. The town, however, had started long before this, and had grown into prominence as a country trading point. The first store was opened by Edington Sterner, in about the year 1850, his location then being about a mile north of the Center; but three years later he removed to the latter place. At the end of about two years he sold out to Robert Scannel, and Clark Backus and Henry Bennett became his rivals in business soon after this. They were followed by Putnam & Corbett, Horace P. Moore, James Beatty, Waldo Corbett, T. E. Whitney and John Hagaman.

Thomas E. Whitney was born in New York City, December 25, 1844, and while yet in his boyhood came with his parents to Akron, Ohio. Here the father died within a few years and the family becoming separated, Thomas E. came to Bridgewater township. Having received a very fair common school education, and possessing a good share of energy, he pushed his way through the world with reasonable success. During the Civil war he enlisted in Hoffman's battalion, doing garrison duty on Johnson's Island, and received his discharge, July 18, 1865. Two or three years later, he bought thirty acres of land, lying partly in Bridgewater township and partly on the other side of the Michigan line, and farmed until 1869, when he engaged in general merchandising. In 1882 he entered in the lumber business, at which he was profitably engaged for several years prior to his death. Dr. W. D. Stout was the first physician in the township, and he opened an office at Bridgewater Center with the inception of the town. Dr. Weldon was another of the earlier physicians, coming a little later than Dr. Stout. The village now has a population of several families, with a store, good school and churches.

The territory now embraced within Bridgewater township was first occupied about 1835, and almost all the land had been entered before the appearance of any permanent settler. Some time during the year 1835 Daniel M. Jordan built a small log shanty on section twenty-four and continued to occupy it until 1836, when he left, probably returning to the place from whence he had come. But the first permanent settlers in any portion of the township were the Smiths. On January 26, 1836, Asa Smith came from Lenawee county, Michigan, and entered three tracts of land, one for himself, one for his father, Daniel Smith, and one for his brother Anson. In May of the same year these men came to the township, cut small clearings on their lands, lived in the small vacant "shanty" of Jordan, and the following year, 1837, moved in with their families. The father and both sons had families of their own, and had all they could do from that time onward to live in a comfortable manner. Daniel Smith was a New Yorker by birth, and lived in the Empire state until well advanced in life. He then migrated to Lenawee county, Michigan, with his family, and later, as stated above, came to Bridgewater township. While living in Michigan one of his daughters married a Mr. Carleton and became the mother of the popular poet, Will Carleton.

Early in the fall of 1837 other families began to appear in the township, locating in the neighborhood of the Smith settlement in the southern part. Miles Putnam and Robert Follett arrived then, the latter being a native of Massachusetts. Curtis Cogswell came in February, 1838. He was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, May 20, 1805. When a small boy he was removed to Pennsylvania by his parents, and there he educated himself by the blaze of pine knots and at the age of twenty had become one of the best teachers in the locality where he lived, for ten years teaching in grammar and graded schools in New York State. He afterwards removed to Toledo, Ohio, remaining there five years, and then came to Bridgewater township, where he entered 400 acres, built a log cabin and became a pioneer, with only five families who had settled in the township before him. He became a Master Mason while in New York, but during the famous Morgan excitement withdrew and ever after was bitterly opposed to the order. He joined the Methodist Episcopal church, but on account of the prevalence of the Masonic element in that denomination, left it and affiliated with the United Brethren. He was the first man in Bridgewater township to volunteer at the call to arms during the Civil war, but was rejected on account of his age. He was strongly Republican in his political views and served as justice of the peace, school examiner, and in other official positions.

Erastus Back and Chandler Holt came in April, 1838. The former was a native of Connecticut, and, bringing his family to Bridgewater township, purchased 160 acres of land, and thereon ended his days in the fall of 1847. Clark Backus, Owen McCarty, William P. Back, Geo. H. Back, Joseph W. Back and Erastus G. Back also came early in 1838. Joseph W. Back was not yet fourteen years of age at the time of the family's immigration into Bridgewater township. He was born in Chaplin, Connecticut, December 7, 1824, and, receiving a good education, began teaching a week before his twenty-first birthday, and taught eleven terms consecutively. Throughout his entire life he took a great interest in educational affairs. He held the office of township clerk in Bridgewater for ten years, and for six years was justice of the peace, and also postmaster for the same length of time. He was class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church for thirty-two years and was also prominent in Sunday school work.

Soon after the arrival of the Backs, came Francis W. Lindsay, Uriah Sumner, David Wilcox, Hiram Covill, Nathaniel S. Dewey, Robert Simmons, Abraham Holland, Solomon Cobb, Richard Gaudern, Abraham Haladay, James Leonardson, Ethan Stafford, William Sumner, Oliver Walkley Crittenden, Asa Church, W. H. B. Smith, William B. Stickney, Richard Heritage, William Gaudern, George Starr, Anthony Dean, James D. Kimball, John Ayres, Elias Depew, R. Wittington, B. B. VanCourt, E. D. Lawrence, L. D. Lawrence, William Haskins, W. A. Dillon, L. Poynter, Henry Poynter, J. St. John, S. N. Parker, Ephraim Palmer, John Wallis, Aaron Willard, J. G. McLain, Joshua Travis, Frederick Champion, J. M. Palmer, Sheldon Smith, A. M. Parker, Riley Parker, Daniel Hair, and others, who came in about the order named, from 1838 until 1846.

Francis W. Lindsay was born in Canada East, and was of Scotch descent. He migrated to the state of New York early in life and farmed in Essex county until October 1, 1836, when he removed to Sheridan, Chautauqua county, and remained there until June 7, 1837. He then took the steamer, William Penn, at Dunkirk, for Chicago, but at Detroit the vessel was condemned, and thence he and family went to Eckford, Calhoun county, Michigan. In December, 1839, his son Whalon came to Bridgewater township, and in February, 1840, the rest of the family followed. They bought eighty acres of land on section twenty-three, at five dollars per acre, built a log cabin without nails or boards, and paid for the farm in work. Mr. Lindsay died in 1859.

Bridgewater township was prolific in early industries, there being a number of saw-mills and grist-mills, constructed and operated at different times from the first settlement, according to the needs of the various communities which they served. These, for the most part were of brief existence, and, in fact, most of them were quickly and cheaply built with no idea of permanence, beyond the demands of the day. Among others was a steam saw-mill, built about 1870, in the western part of the township, at "Fuddletown." Messrs. Babcock & Strong, about the same time, put in machinery for the manufacture of wooden-ware, and the two industries were operated for a few years when they were abandoned. Riley W. Parker, Benjamin B. Van Court and Richard Wittington, all early settlers, built a saw-mill in 1844, to which was added in a short time a small set of "nigger-head" buhrs, which rude grist mill was in operation for about eight years. These mills were located on the St. Joseph river, at Bridgewater Center, but the machinery was too crude to compete with other and later inventions, and after a precarious existence of perhaps twenty years the whole enterprise was abandoned. In about the year 1848, Elias Depew erected a very large, three-storied frame grist mill in the southeastern part of the township, on the St. Joseph river. A saw mill was built near it, but after being operated some twelve or fourteen years, both mills were destroyed by fire under somewhat suspicious circumstances.

Curtis Cogswell was the first to plant an orchard in the township. He also kept one of the first public houses, opening his doors to the public not far from the year 1848. He hung out a sign with "Travelers' Home" emblazoned thereon.

Miss Mary McCrillis taught a school in the building on Anson Smith's farm during the summer of 1841. A Miss Heritage was another early teacher. The log house in which the first term was taught was used for about three years, when a hewed log school house was erected in the vicinity. About the time this house was built another was erected, one mile south of Bridgewater Center. A log school house was built in the southwestern part of the township, as early as 1843, and was located on James Allman's farm, and this house was used some twelve or fifteen years. A log school building was built in the Sumner neighborhood, in the northern part, about the year 1843, and, about 1845, a house of the same description was erected in the McCarty district, in the northeastern part. These were the pioneer schools, from which has grown a most complete educational system, with eleven modern school houses, located at convenient distances from all of the pupils.

The first religious meetings, of which there is any record, were held in the old log school house, near Mr. Cogswell's, at a very early day. A small class of Methodists assembled there, and circuit riders visited the little band of worshipers once every two to four weeks. The first church structure was erected in the southern part of the township, in 1870, known as the Dean church, and was designed for the use of the Winebrinerians, or Church of God, as they style themselves. The class had been organized a few years before, but when they came to build the church they were not financially strong enough and were materially assisted by members of other denominations and outsiders. Previous to the erection of the church, public services were held in Hawkins' schoolhouse and other convenient places.

The Bridgewater Center Methodist Episcopal church was organized in quite an early day, and until their church was built, met in the schoolhouses. The class was first organized as a culmination of the efforts of various traveling ministers, covering a period of several years' labors. The church building was constructed about 1875, and it has served the people for almost a third of a century. The organization has been maintained from its first inception and is now numerically strong and in a flourishing condition.

The United Brethren class in the western part of the township was organized many years ago. Meetings were held in the Brandeberry and Waterston schoolhouses for some years before the church was built. The church building, erected in 1871, is a commodious frame structure, and has been used constantly since, not only for religious services, but for temperance lectures and other meetings of a moral or religious nature. Among the early members of this society were the families of Conrad Brandeberry, William Rainey, John W. Rainey and a few others. Liberty Chapel has been a source of great power and influence for good in the community, and is today one of the best known and most influential religious organizations in the township.

About ten years ago a fine brick structure was erected, one mile and a half north of Bridgewater Center, by the efforts of the Winebrinerians in that vicinity, under the leadership of Rev. John Clark.

A frame union church was built at Cogswell's Corners, in 1881, all denominations in the neighborhood and outsiders uniting their means for that purpose. The house was designed for any and every religious creed or class, and for the purpose of holding funeral services in, as it is located near a nicely situated cemetery.

CHAPTER XXI

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP

THE territory embraced within this township, as originally organized, included all the land now within its limits, as well as three tiers of sections, afterward detached as a part of Gorham township in Fulton county, and all of the present township of Madison, save the western tier of sections, which were joined to Bridgewater. The organization of Millcreek dates from 1839, and its original territory has contributed in the formation of Madison township, in Williams county, and Gorham township in Fulton. Millcreek is not only one of the most fertile and naturally wealthy townships of the county, but it is also one of the most prosperous in its material development. The township is watered by Mill Creek, and its principal tributary, Brush Creek, and the water power afforded by them was utilized in a very early day, when the primitive mills were hailed with delight by the industrious pioneers.

The first permanent improvement which was made in Millcreek township is credited to Theron Landon, who settled on a farm of 160 acres in the fall of 1835. He was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, May 21, 1814, and was of English descent. His father died when Theron was but seven years of age, and for some time thereafter he drifted about in various parts of the East. Finally he located in Millcreek township, as stated above, bringing his mother with him; but she died April 20, 1836, being the first death of a white person to occur in the township. Mr. Landon laid out the now defunct town of Hamer, and was the first postmaster in that part of the county. He was also the first justice of the peace in the township and held the office for several years. In politics he was originally a Whig; but after the disintegration of that once powerful party, he became an ardent Republican, and never changed his fealty to that organization.

Quite a numerous population had settled in Millcreek as early as 1836. Besides Theron Landon, there were Josiah Woodworth, George Berone, James Black, Joseph Haines, John Haines and some others who moved in during the years of 1835 and 1836. Talmond and Joseph Reasoner, Justus Alvord and Samuel G. Wallace were among the early settlers. Talmond Reasoner and his family were of the number who came from New York and settled in Northwestern Ohio. They came to Millcreek township in 1837, and here the old gentleman lived his remaining years. His son, Joseph

Reasoner, was born in Montgomery county, New York, January 31, 1814, and passed his early years in his native state, farming and working on the Erie Canal. In 1837, he came with his parents to Millcreek township and settled on 160 acres, being thus, of course, one of the earliest pioneers in that part of the county. In politics, Mr. Reasoner was a Republican, and he filled many offices, among which were those of county commissioner, justice of the peace (for twenty-four years), township trustee, assessor, infirmary director, etc. In 1875, he removed to and settled on a farm of 120 acres in Fulton county, and there he lived the remainder of his life.

Justus Alvord was a native of Massachusetts and of English descent. In 1841, he came to Ohio, but stopped in Fulton county until the spring of 1843, when he removed to Millcreek township, and there ended his days. The first hotel in the township was kept by Henry D. Alvord, son of Justus; the first postmaster, as stated above, was Theron Landon, who was a farmer, and, as above stated, served as justice of the peace for many years. The first schoolhouse in the township was built on the present site of the Lutheran church, in section 21. This was also the first preaching place, and when the schoolhouse was removed the first church in the township was built there and dedicated in the winter of 1871.

As before stated, Theron Landon, the first settler, laid out the town of Hamer, but it was abandoned because of poor location or some other reason, and Alvordton was its sprightly successor. The first sawmill was erected at Hamer, in 1855, by George Berone. Landon & Haines were the first merchants in the township and opened their store at Hamer, in 1853.

The first election of which we have any record occurred at the house of George Berone, on the first Monday in April, 1839; but the names of the fortunate ones—who were called from obscurity and compelled to withstand the trying ordeal of having political honors thrust upon them—have not been preserved to posterity.

The town of Alvordton, which had a precarious existence for the first years of its life, gradually assumed the proportions of a thrifty town. Prior to the construction of the Wabash railroad it was scarcely a business center, and had but few families living in it, though there were successful business enterprises located near by. Primrose was one mile to the north, and Hamer three and one-half miles to the southeast, and they, having the first start, seemed to maintain the advantage. But with the building of the Wabash and the establishment of a station there, the town began to take on life and soon thereafter was incorporated. It is supported by a rich agricultural district, remote from formidable towns, and is an extensive shipping point on the Wabash and Cincinnati Northern railroads. Its business men are a class of progressive and enterprising people, who command ample capital and first-class facilities for the transaction of the large volume of business. Though it has not made rapid strides in growth, yet its population is mainly of that solid, permanent character, which adds financial strength and stability. According to the census of 1900, the population is four hundred and eighty two. The town now has well built residences and business blocks and good educational advantages and church facilities.

Isaac Shaeffer was the first druggist in Alvordton, going into business there in 1880. Shipman & Page established the first hardware store, the same year.

Millcreek is well supplied with district schools, now in striking contrast with the log houses and antiquated methods of instruction of former days. Among the early teachers in the township were Joseph Reasoner, Miss Sarah McClean, S. B. Doty and David Black—all "sturdy knights of the birch," with the possible exception of the lady. Reference has been made to the first schoolhouse, just north of Alvordton, where, in addition to education, "celestial fire" was sometimes infused into the souls of those who yearned for it. But those were not its only mission. While serving in the multitudinous capacities of town hall, voting place, a general receptacle for itinerant shows and all classes of public meetings, it was also the birthplace of educational interest in Millcreek township. The old log schoolhouse has been superseded by a fine structure in Alvordton, with a systematic arrangement for the instruction of pupils in all grades of advancement, each of the various departments being in charge of a teacher specially adapted to the class of instruction required, and the whole under the supervision of an educator of known ability and success. The schools of Alvordton are second to none of like grade in the county and reflect in a marked degree the intelligence and public spirited enterprise of those who sustain them.

The soil of Millcreek township is generally fertile and well adapted to the raising of all kinds of grain, grasses and fruits. The valleys of Mill and Brush creeks are rich and productive, and as a whole the soil of the township is of excellent quality. It was originally covered with a fine growth of timber in which the hardwood varieties predominated.

CHAPTER XXII

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

THIS township was organized June 3, 1839. Since its organization the territory has never been subdivided, and it has had from the first its present limits, which are somewhat greater than an exact Congressional township. This is accounted for by the extension of the township north to the Fulton line, making it a little more than seven miles, north and south, to six miles east and west.

Superior township was settled, as was Williams county generally, by people from older portions of Ohio, intermixed with others from Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York, and an occasional immigrant from the Mother Country or the Father Land. Descendants of these early pioneers people the township to some extent, but so rapid has been the growth of Montpelier and so inviting have been the opportunities offered there, that it can now be said with truth to have the most cosmopolitan population of any township in the county. But whatever their ancestry or wherever their birthplace, the people of Superior township are a class of intelligent and progressive citizens, many of whom are highly cultured and intellectual. Superior township may also be said to be a historic locality. It was a favorite location of the Indians, many years prior to its occupancy by white men, and even during the early days of settlement the red men had a large camp on the St. Joseph river within the present corporation limits of Montpelier.

Superior township is traversed by the St. Joseph river, a stream of considerable size, on each side of which are broad level tracts of land of the rich black loam variety, which is exceptionally fertile as corn land. The slight elevations which at some points confine the bottom lands to narrow limits, and at others extend them to a greater distance, add to the agricultural value and tend to the beauty of a diversified surface. All the lands are strong and fertile clay soil, which yield abundant returns under proper cultivation. Being sufficiently watered by the little streams which abound these lands are especially valuable for grazing purposes, the stock raising industry being a source of profit as well as pleasure. About the only stream, aside from St. Joseph river, which is large enough to be dignified with a name, is Eagle creek, which flows to the river from the northwest. In addition to these, however, there are many spring branches or runs, which constitute the drainage of the township as well as the water supply. With the advantages before enumerated, it is not strange that a large number of the farmers are extensively engaged in the stock business, and many of them feed a large share of the grain product of their farms to stock, reared by themselves, while others are buyers and shippers. The growth of this industry is a feature which has kept pace with the agricultural advancement of the township.

Fruit growing is another profitable industry which commands some investment and reasonably large returns. There are those who have kept abreast of the onward march of the horticultural science, and in the scientific propagation and culture of the varieties best adapted to the soil and climate have realized good returns.

Traditional history at best is unreliable, but it becomes especially so when transmitted to the third or fourth generation. No written record exists as to the first settler in Superior township; neither have we all of the names of the first officers of the township. But herewith is presented the names of some of the earliest settlers, early business men and officials: About the year 1834, George Bible settled and built his first cabin about two and one-half miles southeast of Montpelier. The forests abounded with wild animals, among the most dreaded of which were bears and wolves, which would often kill and destroy domestic animals. Mr. Bible is represented, by those who have recollections of him, as a remarkably good shot, who scarcely ever missed his mark. One year, he had a contest with Frederick Miser, of Center township, as to which would kill the larger number of deer within a space of two months, and the match resulted in Mr. Bible killing ninety-nine and his opponent sixty-five. Mr. Bible was much disappointed, it is said, because he failed to bring down one more deer, the task he had imposed upon himself at the outset being a round one hundred.

The second cabin was built by Robert McDaniels, the third by George Wisman, who settled in 1836, and whose land adjoined Mr. Bible's, and the fourth by Joseph Pew, who bought land in the immediate neighborhood of those above named. Robert McDaniels came from Licking county, Ohio. He was the father of Arvilla McDaniels, who was quite a remarkable personage, and was, perhaps, the best known teacher of early days in the schools of Williams county. At the early age of thirteen, she commenced her life work as a teacher in a common school in Licking county, and after she came to Williams county, she taught at Bryan and other points, and thus continued for more than forty years, teaching one hundred terms in all. Failing health and the advancing age of her parents finally caused her to give up teaching; and when they were removed by death, she caused to be constructed a small but convenient brick residence in Pioneer, which she inhabited until her death, in 1873. Her medical attendant during her last illness was Richard Gaudern, whom she had taught his first lessons, nearly forty years before. Miss McDaniels' life was unpretending, selfsacrificing and useful, and it was given to the moral, intellectual and religious training of youth.

George Wisman was born in Maryland, in 1798, and his youth was passed with his parents, with whom he remained until twenty-one years of age. He worked for some time at the business of preparing coal for a furnace in Columbiana county, Ohio, and there began farming on eighty acres of woodland, which occupation he followed for four years. He then lived in Massillon for a time, and came to Williams county, October 12, 1836, locating in Superior township, where he had entered 320 acres of land. He developed a fine and extensive farm.

Adam Bechtol was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, November 3, 1809. He lived in the county of his birth until he was twelve years old, when he, with his parents, moved to Lebanon county in the same state. His education consisted of what could be learned in the schools of the place and the period. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he learned the trade of a molder, which he followed about eight years, four of them in Massillon, Ohio. He purchased his farm of 280 acres, then woodland, in Superior township, in 1836. He became a thorough farmer and a leading citizen, holding the position of township trustee for nine years and assessing the property in the township eight times.

James Anspaugh was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1809, and attended school but a short time, remaining with and assisting his parents until his marriage. He then began farming on rented land, continuing that mode of life about ten years. He moved to Williams county, in 1839, bringing a yoke of oxen and a pair of steers, and located on 100 acres of government land, clearing the same and opening a road to his house. He steadily added to his landed possessions until he owned 249 acres of excellent land, with many and substantial improvements.

John W. Brannan came from Columbiana county and settled in Superior township, in 1847, where he pursued his vocation as a farmer through a long and honorable life. F. L. Brannan, son of John W., was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, February 5, 1845, and was but two years old when his parents moved to Superior township. He became well educated, attending the district schools and also the high school at Bryan, and began teaching at the age of twenty-one. He began farming on twenty acres of land, but steadily increased his holdings until he became a well-to-do and substantial farmer. He also dealt largely in live stock, and entered public life to the extent of holding the position of Justice of the Peace for six years. About 1890, he migrated west and now lives in Denver, Colorado.

George Kollar moved from Tuscarawas county to Superior township in 1852. His son, John C. Kollar, was born September 23, 1827, and became a leading citizen of the township. He served in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, and was in the campaigns with Grant and Sherman.

Jacob Knepper was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, October

2, 1803, of German descent, and, when thirteen years of age, was brought to Columbiana county, Ohio, by his parents. He came to Superior township in 1852, and died there, August 11, 1879.

Alfred Riley was born in Stark county, Ohio, February 11, 1832. His mother died when he was about six years of age and he then went to reside with a sister, also a resident of Stark county, who, with her husband, removed to Williams county in 1845, Alfred accompanying them. He received a good common school education, and at the age of eighteen, began to work by the month on his own account. In 1855, he bought fifty acres of land in Superior township, on which he lived for about seven years. He then sold it and bought a farm of 140 acres in Bridgewater township, upon which he lived until his death. In politics, Mr. Riley was always a Republican. While living in Superior township he served as trustee, in 1880 was elected county commissioner, and, in 1883, was re-elected, being the only successful candidate on his party ticket.

William Teats, another old resident of Superior township, and who has recently passed away, was born in Ross county, Ohio. His education embraced such scope as the district school afforded, and when sufficiently old he was apprenticed to a blacksmith. He also learned carpentering and in early manhood removed to old Williams county, locating at Defiance. There he served as township trustee, eight or ten terms, and as corporation clerk of Defiance, one term. He first came to the present Williams county, in 1840, but after remaining a few months, he returned to Defiance and finally came to Superior township in 1849. He spent the remainder of his life on his farm on Eagle Creek, northwest of Montpelier, and died there, June 21, 1905.

John Brannan was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 4, 1825, and in October, 1850, came to Williams county and settled in Superior township, on the farm of 160 acres where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a progressive and enterprising citizen and possessed the confidence of the entire community. He served the township in the offices of assessor and land appraiser, and, in 1884 was elected one of the commissioners of Williams county, serving one term in the latter position. He was not a seeker after public place, but yielded to a sense of duty when called upon to serve his fellow citizens.

Joseph White was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1806, and when fifteen years of age, was apprenticed to a coachmaker, with whom he remained four and one-half years, and continued to live in Bucks county until his twenty-third year, when he removed to New Hope, Pennsylvania, and set up his trade there. In 1835, he removed to Crawford county, Ohio, and purchased eighty acres, fifteen of which were cleared. This he sold, and, coming to Williams county, in 1839, entered 160 acres. He assisted in clearing two and one-half miles of road to reach the mill at West Buffalo, and he served one term as Justice of the Peace of Superior township.

James Starr was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1811, and his youth-time, when not at school, was spent on the farm. Removing to Massillon, Stark county, Ohio, he followed clerking for a time, and came to Superior township, in 1839, where he entered eighty acres of land, on which he lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of a short time which he again spent in Stark county. He began the first improvement on his land in 1839, but did not occupy it until 1842, and his first abode was a primitive log cabin. To his first entry of land he added until he owned 456 acres, and in addition to farming the same he dealt extensively in stock.

Henry Dellinger was born in York county, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1813, and his early life was passed at the place of his birth. His opportunities for acquiring an education were exceedingly meager. He learned the trade of a weaver and began the strife of life for himself when sixteen years of age, following the trade for a livelihood, and also for a number of years working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1841, he removed to Superior township and located on eighty acres of government woodland. This he cleared, and afterwards added eighty acres more, again forty, and so on until, in 1867, he possessed 240 acres. He removed to Montpelier, in 1877, and passed his remaining days in retirement.

Joseph Griffith was born in Belmont county, Ohio, February 25, 1813, and his youth was passed with his parents, with whom he resided until his marriage. He then continued the pursuit of farming, about twelve years, on rented land, when he purchased ninety-three acres in Superior township, on which he settled in 1851, and began making improvements. In 1869, he sold his farm and purchased more land west of Montpelier; then removed to Metz, Indiana, and remained there two years. Subsequently he erected a store and residence in Montpelier and continued in the mercantile business there until 1881, when he was burned out. After that he devoted his attention to farming. In public life he served three years as Justice of the Peace of Superior township.

Charles Brundydge was born, September 27, 1800, in Westchester county, New York, and lived at the place of his birth until twenty years of age, attending school and laboring on the farm. He then removed to Connecticut, engaging at farm labor, and two years later came to Huron county, Ohio, where he purchased fifty-three acres of woodland, which he cleared and improved. This he exchanged, in 1842, for 160 acres of unimproved land in Superior township, where he resided until his death.

Andrew Dunlap came from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Williams county, in 1842, and spent the remainder of a long and honorable life in Superior township. He was a native of Ireland, his birth occurring in the little Green Isle, in 1796. In childhood he accompanied his parents to America and lived in Columbiana county until his removal to Williams. He then settled on a farm two miles east of Montpelier, where he lived until death claimed him, in 1888.

Montpelier is the principal town in Superior township; and it also holds the second and is rapidly forging to the front as a competitor for the first position among the towns of Williams county. It was laid out in 1845, by Jesse Tucker and I. K. Briner, upon land owned by William S. Miller. It is probable that Messrs. Tucker and Briner had purchased the land on contract; but as no transfer to them was ever recorded, they doubtless failed to realize their expectations in the sale of lots and allowed the real estate to revert to Mr. Miller. In 1849, the latter disposed of his holdings to John Miller, who inaugurated the sale of lots and the embryo town was started. But it remained only nominally a town for thirty years and was not incorporated until 1875, the delay being caused by its slow growth and the paucity of population. The survey and grading of the roadbed through Montpelier for the old Canada Southern Railway caused a small "boom" for the village, but the abandonment of the project again retarded its growth, and the census enumeration of 1880 gave a population of only 405. With the completion of the Detroit and Butler branch of the Wabash, however, a rapid increase in population began; and the later addition of the Montpelier and Chicago, and the Montpelier and Toledo branches of the same—combined with the enterprising spirit of the citizens—accelerated the forward movement until in rapid growth Montpelier has had few equals east of the Mississippi River. The United States census tells the story in its returns of the population: 1880, four hundred and five; 1890, twelve hundred and ninety-three; 1900, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine. Since the taking of the last census, however, its growth has been phenomenal, but as no enumeration has been taken the population can only be estimated. At the Presidential election of 1904, there were 673 votes cast in the village, and counting four to each voter (which is usually considered a minimum estimate), the population in 1905, is at least 2,700.

The name Montpelier is one of French origin, and there are two noted places in the United States which bear the same cognomen. One is the capital of Vermont, and the other is the former country home and present burial place of James Madison, the fourth president of the United States. How the town of which we write came to be christened Montpelier is not positively known, but it may be assumed as probable that the name was given it in honor of one or the other of the noted places mentioned, or else was selected because of its phonetic beauty. The postoffice was established there, December 28, 1846, and Conroy W. Mallory was the first man who was authorized to handle the mail.

The development of Montpelier in manufacturing has been no less remarkable than has been its increase in population. It is difficult if not impossible to give the exact date of the establishment of the first industrial or commercial enterprise in the town, but not far from and perhaps prior to 1845, Messrs. Tucker & Briner built a grist mill, which was run by water power, near the spot where the Montpelier City Mills are now located. A saw-mill, operated by Tucker & Hueston, was preparing lumber for the settlers in 1844, and this was doubtless the first manufacturing establishment in the place. A tannery was built as early as 1848, but it was conducted only a few years and was then abandoned. Upon some points there exists considerable diversity of opinion, but it is generally conceded that Conroy W. Mallory opened the first general merchandise store on the site now occupied by Montpelier, in 1845, although prior to that date, Jacob Snyder and William Crissey had a small store and ashery west of town, on the place known as the "Brundydge Farm." No village was located there, but it was commonly known as "Tuckertown." The ashery at that place was succeeded by one within the original limits of Montpelier, west of the park on the east bank of the river, and, being yet in operation, it is the oldest landmark in the town. The writer has been unable to learn the exact date of its erection, but it was termed the "old ashery" in the boyhood days of those who now have a surplus of "silvery threads among the gold." The foundry is another early establishment that is still in existence, and it seems to have kept pace with the town in its development. It was built by Lewis Wingert, in 1865. The Empire House was the first hostelry in the place and it is still standing, although it has been "put out of business" by the growth of the town and the removal of its business center to a point further east. Of the present business and manufacturing interests of Montpelier, time and space forbids a resume. Besides, this volume is intended to be a history and not a business directory; and if it were the latter, at least monthly editions and additions would be necessary to fairly represent and keep pace with the rapid strides of the town and the development of its many industries.

Montpelier is beautifully situated on the banks of the St. Joseph River, the power from which made it possible to establish the first grist mill and saw mills—prime necessities of the early pioneers. The river bounds the village on the north and west, and seemingly is loth to leave the favored spot in its journey to the place where it loses its name, and, mingling its waters with those of the St. Mary's, assists in the formation of the historic Maumee.

The first election after the incorporation of the village was held, April 5, 1875, and the following officers were chosen: Mayor, Joel D. Kriebel; clerk, Jacob Leu; treasurer, John Allen; marshal, Jesse Blue. The gentlemen who officiated as election officers were Frank L. Speaker, Nathan E. Fry and W. M. Gillis, judges, and J. D. Kriebel and T. E. Lamb, clerks. The men who were first chosen to guide the destinies of the village were representatives of the varied business interests then existing. Joel D. Kriebel, who was elected mayor, was identified with the manufacturing interests and had considerable to do with the early railroad projects. He is yet a resident of the town.

Jacob Leu, who served as the first clerk of the village, was a native of Switzerland and was born near Baden, May 24, 1832. He received his education and fourteen years' business experience in the dry goods line before emigrating to America. He came, in 1860, to Waterville, Ohio, where he accepted a clerkship and remained five years, and then began business for himself at Bryan, in dry goods and general merchandise, which line of business he followed continuously until his death in 1897. From Bryan he removed to Butler, Indiana, thence to Pettisville, Ohio, and later to Wauseon, where he remained until 1873. In the latter year he established his residence and engaged in business in Montpelier, which place continued to be his home the remainder of his life. Mr. Leu was quite prominent in local affairs, filling the position of town clerk for six years, town treasurer, and was also a member of the board of education.

John Allen was born in Superior township, May 14, 1847. He attended the public schools until he was sixteen years of age, was then a student at the Bryan Academy for one year, then for six months conducted a drug store at Edon, and for two years followed the same business at Fremont, Indiana. In 1870, he returned to Montpelier and established himself in the drug and grocery business with which he was connected for a number of years. He was elected township clerk in 1873, the first treasurer of Montpelier, in 1875, township treasurer, in 1877, and was several times re-elected to the latter position. In 1887, he went west and has since been living in the state of Kansas.

The present officials of Montpelier are as follows: Mayor, Clyde E. Thomas; clerk, James A. Weaver; treasurer, Willard A. Louden.

Services of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Superior township date from the year 1849, when the first regular house of worship was built at Eagle Creek, northwest of Montpelier. Prior to that date, of course, services were held at private residences and school houses, and this first church building was a primitive affair, being constructed of hewn logs. This has been succeeded by a substantial frame structure and the congregation at that point has been prosperous from its inception to the present day.

The Presbyterians, also, maintain a strong and prosperous organization in the township, their missionaries being among the first to visit the community in the interests of Christianity. The second house of worship, a frame building, was erected by them, in 1850, and its location was south of Montpelier, in what has been known for years as the Brannan settlement. The first building was succeeded by another of larger dimensions, in 1873, which is known as the Bethesda Church.

The Disciple Church, located on the south line of the township and one mile west of the east line, was built in 1850. Union Chapel is situated two miles north of the south line and one and three-fourths miles east of the west line—denomination, United Brethren. The Lutheran Reformed, or Zion's Church, situated four miles west and south of Montpelier, was built a number of years ago and was probably the first brick structure for religious services erected in the township.

In Montpelier, the German Lutheran is the oldest church building now in use. It is a frame structure and was built in 1880. The United Brethren erected a building about 1869, which for years they used for church purposes, but upon the division of the church, about 1890, two separate organizations were formed, and each now has a new and modern structure. The Presbyterians have had a church building and a resident pastor in Montpelier for years, and the Methodists, too, have prospered and have an elegant brick church building, than which few are found that is more conveniently arranged. One of the earliest church buildings in the town was a frame structure, erected by the Methodists. It has been converted to other uses, but in former days, aside from religious services, it was a meeting place for lectures, moral entertainments and political meetings. The voices of many noted men have been heard within its walls, among them being James A. Garfield, who delivered a political address therein in 1877.

There are cemeteries in connection with nearly all of the churches of Superior township, outside of the village of Montpelier; and, prior to a comparatively recent date, a burial ground southeast of town was generally used as a place of interment for the dead. But with the growth of the village a beautiful site was selected a half a mile west of town and Riverside Cemetery was established.

Montpelier is well supplied with the various social and beneficial orders, each having a large membership and being in a substantial condition. The list comprises Montpelier Lodge No. 745, I. O. O. F.; Montpelier Lodge No. 547, F. & A. M.; Superior Lodge No. 269, K. of P.; Hiram Louden Post No. 155, G. A. R.; W. R. C. No. 210; Williams Camp No. 218, S. of V.

Deserving of special mention, in the consideration of social and benevolent societies in Montpelier, is Hiram Louden Post No. 155, Grand Army of the Republic. As is well known, every honorably discharged Union soldier of the Civil war is eligible to membership in this fraternal organization; and very few of the survivors of that great struggle deny themselves the benefits and social privileges, unless prevented by religious scruples or enfeebled health. But the lapse of forty years since the close of the war, and nearly forty-five years since the beginning, has devastated the ranks of that once proud and unconquerable army, and left the remnant in the "sere and yellow leaf" of declining years. But with the thinning ranks, as one falls here and another there, the "boys" of 1861 proudly and reverently "close up to the right," maintaining and ever cherishing a kindly regard for their late comrades in arms, and their dependent widows and orphans. This is the dominant feature of the Grand Army of the Republic, and right loyally do the survivors and their devoted wives, sons and daughters fulfill the mission. This is the only fraternal organization with a "time limit" as to its existence. In the very nature of things it must soon only become a memory. Hiram Louden Post was organized, November 22, 1881, with ten ex-soldiers as charter members; N. P. Watson, J. A. Dorshimer, J. Dewees, C. H. Freebern, E. T. Wisman, H. Woolf, J. C. Ott, B. Hagerty, M. C. Moores and O. Lowry. The total enrollment since the organization has exceeded two hundred members, and at present there are ninety in good standing, numbering within its ranks a large majority of the survivors of the war now residing in Superior and adjoining townships. The Post owns its property in Montpelier—a fine and spacious G. A. R. hall, valued at $6,000—and its "camp fires" and social gatherings are a source of pleasure to old and young. In the name of the Post is preserved the memory of Hiram Louden, a gallant Williams county soldier. He was born in Liberty township, Crawford county, Ohio, January 13, 1836, and was the son of Moses H. and Emaline (Bacon) Louden, who were among the first settlers of Superior township. He answered the first call to arms, enlisting on April 22, 1861, in Company C, Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After serving three months, which was the term of this first enlistment, he again enlisted on December 5, 1862, in the First Ohio Volunteer Sharpshooters. He died of typhoid fever at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, June 17, 1863.

Montpelier is justly proud of her excellent schools. The youth of the town and surrounding country have the advantages of a most excellent high school, which prepares them for higher institutions of learning, should they desire a more complete education. A handsome modern school building adorns a sightly location in the central part of town, while the instructors are selected with great care and retained as long as they render efficient and conscientious service. Some of the graduates of the Montpelier High School, without further educational advantages, are filling important positions in various parts of the country. There are ten excellent district schools in successful operation in Superior township, presided over by a corps of specially qualified and professionally educated teachers of both sexes.

CHAPTER XXIII

NORTHWEST TOWNSHIP

THIS is not the largest, nor is it the wealthiest and best improved township in the county. But the soil is largely of what was called, in an early day, "low-lands," which under the excellent system of under-draining has become unsurpassed in fertility. The higher or hill lands, though good grazing fields and reasonably productive in the growth of grain and fruits, are less fertile than the redeemed swamp or marsh lands. Nettle Lake is situated in the northern part, one mile east of the central line, and it has for its inlet and outlet, Nettle Creek, which drains the northern part of the township. Fish Creek waters its western border, while the branches that form Eagle Creek unite in the southeastern corner. The land was originally covered with a large growth of excellent timber, which, instead of adding to its value in the early days, involved a large amount of labor and expense in its removal and the preparation of the soil for cultivation. Much of this was rolled into log heaps and burned on the ground, a prodigal destruction of much wealth, had it existed in later years. The principal varieties of timber were the black walnut, hickory, sugar maple, burr oak, butternut, wild cherry and elm, on the lower lands, with oak, oftimes of a scrubby variety, on the higher or uplands.

Northwest is the second youngest township in the county, and was organized, December 7, 1840. Since its organization there has been no change in its size, a slight misunderstanding in regard to the line between it and Bridgewater—causing the Board of County Commissioners to clearly establish it—being the only thing in the records concerning a change in its boundaries. As is well understood, it is the northwestern township in the county and state—hence its name—with Michigan on the north and Indiana on the west. Florence township and a part of a section in Superior bounds it on the south and Bridgewater is its eastern neighbor.

The precise date of the first settlement is not clearly known, but Aaron Burr Goodwin, about whose life a great deal of romance and mystery lingers, is generally accorded the honor of being the first white resident. He was a man of fine education, an excellent surveyor, and for years before the settlement of the township had been an Indian trader in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. He was possessed of a violent temper, which when kindled raged like a conflagration within him. He was brave but cautious, and he was wholly unscrupulous in his dealings, not only with the Indians, but also with the white settlers who were associated with him. He appeared in the township as early as 1837, and might have been in a year or two before, as the exact time of his arrival cannot be determined. He had taken two orphan children (a boy and a girl) from Cleveland, Ohio, to rear. The girl, Anna, afterward became the wife of Hiram Russell, who owned the land in the extreme northwest corner of the township, upon which the cabin of Goodwin was located. The cabin was situated about forty rods northwest of the residence on the Aldis Johnson farm and was near the state lines of both Indiana and Michigan. Goodwin was an experienced gunsmith and derived no little revenue from the Indians in tinkering their guns. He kept powder and lead, tobacco, calico, whiskey and various trinkets and ornaments for the Indian trade. He kept just such things as the Indians wanted, and when his unscrupulous character and violent disposition are taken into consideration, the result of his constant intercourse with the red men may be easily surmised. His practice was to take constant advantage of their wants by getting them drunk and then fleecing them to the uttermost farthing of their annuities and their valuable furs. He had many severe altercations with them, but managed to shield himself and his property from their attacks. It is said that he once shot an Indian, whom he found stealing his potatoes, though this circumstance is purely traditionary. On another occasion a very untractable and savage Indian was cheated out of an unusually large and fine bear skin, whereupon he threatened to kill Goodwin at the first opportunity. The Indian, whose name was Big Jack, was one of the most desperate and revengeful of his band and was greatly feared by Goodwin, who knew that he would lose no chance of putting his threat into direful execution. This threat and other demonstrations from Indians who had been cheated and abused, rendered the situation of Goodwin precarious, and he became very cautious in all his movements. He scarcely dared to venture from his cabin at night and was constantly on his guard during the day. This led to the report that he was cowardly, but precisely the reverse was true—he was simply prudent, and had reason to be so. Events went on without any serious occurrence until the removal of the Indians westward terminated the siege of Goodwin's cabin. Goodwin had formerly lived, it is said, near Jackson, Michigan, where he had been an Indian trader. He was for a time mail-carrier in that section of the country and carried the valuables of Uncle Sam in his hat, if tradition is correct. After a residence in Northwest township of some six or eight years, he removed to Iowa or Illinois, and his subsequent movements are unknown.

In September, 1837, James Knight, with his sons, Thomas, Philip, Samuel, James and Joshua, established himself in a rude log cabin, about eighty rods north of Nettle Lake. He was a professional hunter, but soon after his arrival became afflicted with white swelling in the hip, which rendered him almost helpless and from which he never fully recovered. Later in life, Mr. Knight was also stricken with blindness, and the writer plainly recalls frequent visits, in childhood, to the little cabin of the decrepit old hunter. The reception was always cordial—the old gentleman being fond of children—and as a part of the ceremony he always required us to stand at his knee, while with his hands he would examine our face and take our physical dimensions. Then with kindness beaming from his sightless eyes, he would talk encouragingly to us and tell us how much we had grown since he had "seen" us last. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and his army experiences and his hunting exploits afforded entertainment that was equally pleasant to "Uncle Jimmy" and his juvenile guest.

After the father became afflicted much of the care of the family fell upon Thomas Knight, the elder son, who became one of the most expert hunters and trappers ever in the township. At that period an experienced hunter and trapper could make five times as much money as the one that turned his attention to farming. Deer skins sold quite readily at one dollar each; bear skins at from three to eight dollars, and the furs of the mink, otter or raccoon at from fifty cents to five dollars. These facts caused the Knight boys to spend almost their entire time in the wonderfully exciting sport of hunting, trapping and fishing. They carried flint-lock rifles and always went armed with huge knives. Nettle Lake was a great resort for deer, which came there in the night to drink, and the boys spent many a nocturnal hour in their canoe in quest of their antlered prey. From the boat it was an easy matter to shoot a deer, and in this manner five or six were frequently killed in a single evening by Thomas and Philip Knight; and perhaps others of the first settlers did equally as well. One evening, while thus engaged, Thomas shot and wounded a very large buck, which ran up the bank a few yards and stopped. The canoe was darted to the shore and Thomas sprang out and up the bank after the wounded animal. He came to it almost immediately and instantly seized it by the antlers; but the animal made a lunge and pinioned the hunter fast against a tree. He shouted for help, but ere his brother could arrive the wounded buck fell upon the ground in the agonies of death. The wound had been mortal. This and many other incidents, Thomas Knight was wont to tell to those of a later generation. He lived until 1896 and hence is well remembered by the people of Northwest township. His best days' work at trapping netted him eleven dollars and fifty cents, the particulars of which were given as follows: He used an ingenious wooden trap, which held the animals securely, and upon the day mentioned went out to inspect his traps, which previously he had set for raccoon. He had set many in the woods near his father's cabin and firmly expected to bring in five or six skins that morning. While he was walking along toward his destination, he suddenly heard a noise near by, and looking in that direction, saw what at first glance appeared to be an Indian pony. Nothing but the back of the pony was visible above an intervening clump of bushes, and without thinking much about the matter, the hunter continued his walk. A moment later he looked again and was astonished and somewhat frightened to see walking directly toward him a larger bear than he had ever before encountered. The animal was some distance away and had not yet observed the hunter, so Mr. Knight instantly concealed himself, and examining the priming of his rifle, he anxiously awaited the approach of the bear. A moment later it came leisurely along, and when it had approached within easy rifle range shot, the hunter took careful aim and pulled the trigger. His aim was perfect and the bear, one of the largest of its kind, fell dead. It weighed almost five hundred pounds, and when alive, stood at least three feet in height. The skin sold for eight dollars, and when the value of the skin of the raccoons caught during the day was added, the total footed up to eleven dollars and fifty cents. The fore paw of this bear was taken to Columbus, Ohio, and for many years could be seen in a museum in that city.

Mr. Knight contracted to clear ten acres of timber land for a man just across the line in Indiana, for which he was to receive as payment a large fine sow—the prospective mother of a numerous family. While cutting on this tract of timber one day, he suddenly heard the sow, off some distance in the woods, begin to squeal as if in great distress; and surmising the cause, he seized his rifle and started in the direction whence the sounds proceeded. He soon reached the spot, and, behold, a large, savage-looking bear had seized his sow and was literally tearing her to pieces. Without a moment's hesitation, the enraged owner raised his rifle to his eye and fired; the huge animal released its hold and after a few feeble kicks lay motionless and dead. The unfortunate sow was so mangled, however, that she died soon afterward.

Thomas F. Whaley, one of the pioneers of Northwest township, was born in Genesee county, New York, January 31, 1818. He moved to Michigan early in 1839, stopping some time in different portions of that State, and then came to Northwest township in June of the same year. His business here was to look over land owned by his father, but the place suiting him, he erected a cabin, 20x26,—a large one for that day—and went to clearing and farming. There being no mills within reach, they made mortars in which to grind their grain, and this method sufficed in Northwest township during several years. When Mr. Whaley settled there, but four men had a residence near and Indians were very numerous.

Previous to about the year 1843, members of the Pottawatomie tribe habitually encamped temporarily in the vicinity of Nettle Lake, around which, in the swamps, almost every species of wild game could be found. On the old Knight homestead, just north of the lake, was a spot where the Indians had assembled at certain seasons for many years. Wigwams of bark and poles had been constructed, which survived the intervals of non-occupancy, and were soon made tenantable for the Indians by coverings of skins and fresh supplies of bass-wood bark. Fine fish inhabited the lake and afforded an excellent variation in the limited food for the Indian, while along the shores, finding a home in the swamps, minks and otters and an occasional beaver dwelt.

The township was one unbroken forest of heavy timber, except in the southwestern part, where on the sandy soil were a few oak openings. Considerable swampy land was to be seen, but this has largely disappeared, due to under-draining and the further fact that the ax of the husbandman has leveled scores of acres of magnificent natural forests and the rays of the sun, unchecked by the natural covering, have drank up the superficial waters. Not a road was to be seen, but here and there throughout the tangled wild-wood, old and well traveled Indian trails wound around on the higher lands, centering at the permanent and temporary villages. Hundreds of deer wandered through the township, browsing on the rich verdure of grass and bush. Packs of ravenous wolves infested the woods, chasing down deer or other inoffensive animals, and filling the affrighted air of night with their wild and discordant music. Panthers were sometimes heard uttering their peculiar and terrifying cries, and bears were frequently seen walking as kings of the woods. Nothing human was to be found save the few bands of Indians, who were almost as wild as their daily companions, the beasts. Dangerous and venomous reptiles inhabited every acre of land and all was silence and solitude. This was the Northwest township of less than seventy years ago, when the first settlers who have been named, heralded a change in conditions.

The following names represent early established families in Northwest, in addition to those already mentioned: William H. Billings, Ozias Billings, Thomas Whaley, Hiram Russell, Johnson Butler, Richard Parish, Asa Parish, Adolphus Rogers, George Matthews, A. C. Johnson, Aldis Johnson, John Maybee, William McLain, William Phelps, James Whaley, Washington Whaley, Daniel Smith and Anson Smith.

The early political history of Northwest township, or at least the earliest, was not preserved with the records of the township, but it has been stated that the first township officers were as follows: Adolphus Rogers and William H. Billings, Justices of the Peace; J. C. Whaley, treasurer; Thomas F. Whaley, constable; William H. Billings, clerk; Thomas Whaley, William H. Billings and Adolphus Rogers, trustees. It is also stated that at the Presidential election of 1844, only eleven votes were polled in the township, nine of them being Democratic. It is highly probable that while Northwest was attached to Bridgewater some of the officers of the combined township were chosen from what is now Northwest. The facts in this particular cannot be learned, although in the past it has been quite currently stated that at one time William H. Billings held every office in the township, except that of constable.

The early schools are spoken of in the chapter on "Educational Development," but it is perfectly germane to say here that the educational interests in Northwest township have kept pace with the onward march of civilization in other directions. The log structures of pioneer days soon gave place to the more pretentious buildings of the middle period, and these, in turn, to the modern and finely equipped buildings of the present day. Among the first teachers of the township were Miss Abigail Hillis and Miss Mariah Marquart. Miss Rebecca Thomas and Miss Mariah Kinney were also early teachers.

The Methodists were the pioneers in religious effort in Northwest.

Families in the vicinity of Columbia and in the northern part of Florence township were the nucleus to a church organization, which is still in existence, and which is given more extended mention in the chapter on Florence township. The Close Communion Baptists organized a small class at Thomas Whaley's at quite an early day, but later met at the school house near there. A Free Will Baptist class was early organized at William Billings', but neither of these classes survived many years.

The Winebrinerian class in the northeast part of the township was organized at an early day. Adam Beaver, Wesley Houtz and Aaron Culbertson were among the first members and were leaders in the movement that resulted in the building of the church, about 1874. Other denominations assisted in its construction and in return used the building for their services for several years. Trouble finally arose over the matter, however, and in 1881, the United Brethren built a house of their own about one mile east and south of the old church. Among the leaders in the latter movement were Ira McLain, Ambrose Hoverstock, John and William Heiserman, Alfred McCloe, George Kint, Fhares Kintigh and William F. Kintigh. In 1889, the trouble in the United Brethren Church arose over the question of secret societies and a division occurred in the ranks here. It culminated a few years ago in the erection of another building, one mile and a half north of the Winebrinerian church, in Michigan, thus well supplying, so far as houses of worship can do so, the spiritual needs of that community. There have been a few Dunkards and Methodists in that neighborhood and the German Reformers once had a small class there.

A Methodist class once met in the school house at Northwest Centre, but its members have either affiliated with other denominations or sought other places of worship. In 1890, a Christian Union Church building was erected one-half mile north of the Centre, under the supervision of Rev. George W. Long, and the class he established has continued numerically strong. The United Brethren organized a class many years ago in the southern part of the township, and finally built a frame church at what is known as Malcolm's Corners. Two miles east of there, the Presbyterians have a fine church building, which was also built about twenty-five years ago.

The first burial places in the township were usually private grounds, established on the farms as necessity required; but finally public cemeteries were laid out and these "cities of the dead," of which there are several in Northwest township, receive the care and attention that is due them.

No grist mill, not even a "corn-cracker," so far as known, was ever erected and operated in Northwest township. Almost all the early families obtained their flour at Martin & Depew's mill in southern Florence, and those who did not were compelled to go twice as far before finding another. Probably the first saw-mill constructed and operated in the township was built between 1840 and 1845, by Richard and Jacob Parish, and it was located on Nettle Creek, above the lake, on the farm now owned by R. O. Beach. It was a small rude affair with an up-and-down saw, set in motion by water that moved so sluggishly that, as was jokingly stated, the sawyer could set the mill in operation on a large log and take a nap before his services would again be required. The mill was conducted during the wet months for a few years and was then abandoned, being long since forgotten, excepting by the oldest settlers. Although this mill sawed but little, yet it supplied the demand for four or five miles around, which is not saying very much. The second saw-mill, a much better one, was erected on Nettle Creek, below the lake, in about 1845, by Daniel Smith and Alpheus Petty. Mr. Smith had removed there from Bridgewater township, where he had had the distinction of being the first settler. He had been a soldier in the war of 1812, and during the remainder of his life was a pensioner of "Uncle Sam." The mill was located at the outlet of a large natural pond, and an easy and excellent water power was secured by means of a dam. The mill under different forms, managements and structures, was in existence until a comparatively recent date, when the appearance of rapid portable mills secured the patronage away from the older and slower. During the early history of the township this saw-mill was one of the most, if not the most, important industrial features within its limits. Settlers after the earliest ones preferred to locate near mills, stores, etc., that many of the privations of life in the backwoods might be avoided, and therefore this mill was one inducement for immigrants in search of homes to locate near it. During its more active career it sawed enormous quantities of lumber. Two of the earlier owners were Adam Clum and Robert Russell. George Kint purchased it in 1850, and continued to operate it until 1885, when he removed to Kansas, the mill became silent and finally ceased to exist. Steam was never used as a motive power in this mill.

A steam saw-mill was built during the early 60's by Alfred Gamber, and was located at Columbia. It passed to a Mr. Ford and several others, and after being operated about ten years was removed. Another mill was built in the western part of the township, about 1870, and was in operation a number of years. The Spielman steam mill did a flourishing business for a considerable time in the same part of the township. A steam saw-mill was erected in the northeastern part, near the Winebrinerian church, by Ezra Welch, about 1872. He continued to operate it until his death, when it passed into the hands of Henry Esterline, and at the demise of the latter it ceased to do business and was finally converted into a barn.

There is but one small town in Northwest township—Columbia—the post-office name being Nettle Lake. In the early days of its existence this town did quite a flourishing business and it is still a popular trading point, being sustained by an excellent farming country. But the aggressions of nearby railroad towns have shorn Columbia of much of its former prominence in the business world. In writing of churches, schools and other public enterprises, this village has been frequently mentioned. The various industries incident to towns of this size, together with the social, religious, educational and political functions, are all represented, while the mercantile and other business interests are quite extensive.

Rural post-offices for the accommodation of the people were early established, some of which were kept in the farm houses. They have been discontinued on the adoption of the admirable system of "rural free delivery", which brings almost every farmer in daily contact with the outside world, and his mail is left at his door. Add to this the convenience of the modern telephone, and the isolation of country life is reduced to the minimum.

CHAPTER XXIV

MADISON TOWNSHIP

ON March 7, 1843, the commissioners of Williams county made the following official record: "The Board having under consideration the organization of a new township, order the same recorded, and the name called Madison, of which the following are the boundaries: Bounded on the north by the Michigan State line; and on the west by the east line of Bridgewater township; and on the south by the south line of Township 10 South, Range 2 East, and south line of fractional Section 7, in Township 10 South, Range 1 West; and on the east by the east line of Section 6 and fractional Section 7, in Township 10 South, Range 1 West, and the east of fractional Section 7 and Sections 18, 19, 30 and 31, in Township 9 South, Range 1 West. The Board order an election to be holden in the township of Madison on the first Monday in April, next, to elect the necessary officers."

The township was named, of course, in honor of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States. St. Joseph River flows through the township and forms a part of the western boundary, the commissioners at a later date and as a matter of convenience, having detached the extreme southeast corner of Bridgewater, lying east of the river, and making it a part of Madison. Silver Creek and Clear Fork traverse the northwestern part of the township, and several rivulets and spring branches of the river enhance the water supply and swell the streams which are dignified with names.

The surface of Madison township is generally undulating, with broad and rich valleys along the streams. The hills are not large nor precipitous, however, but are susceptible of easy cultivation, and the soil they bear is fertile and well adapted to general agricultural purposes. In the valleys, the soil is a rich black loam, quick and responsive to the efforts of the intelligent farmer. A great deal of the township has a gravelly subsoil, mixed with clay, and sand appears in some localities.

The township was originally covered with excellent timber and was one of the finest hunting grounds in the county. Game of all kinds known in the country was here to be found in almost exhaustless supply. The heavy growth of timber afforded ample cover and protection, and many are the "bear stories" and daring feats of frontier life remembered of the early pioneers of Madison. They were brought in daily contact with bears, wolves, wild-cats and panthers, and these were formidable enemies to the young domestic animals about the settlers' cabins, as well as dangerous companions in the lonely wilderness. Deer and wild turkeys were also to be found in great numbers, and these, with an occasional "bear steak," furnished the principal meat supply, to which the epicurean of today would have no occasion to object. Venomous reptiles, and especially the dreaded rattlesnake, were among the enemies of modern civilization, and these added their share to the discomforts and perils of pioneer life.

The settlement of the township began under the same discouraging circumstances which prevailed everywhere in districts remote from the natural thoroughfares. The meager supplies of actual necessities had to be brought long distances, through trackless forests, infested with dangerous opponents of civilization. The pack-horse was the faithful friend who was the means of connecting the pioneers with the outside world, carrying to them the few articles of commerce which this simple mode of living demanded. Ammunition, meal and salt were the three articles most required, but the first was always an absolute necessity. The periodical trips to the "base of supplies" were always fraught with peril, both to the lonely travelers who made them and to the helpless and defenseless ones who were left behind. Several days were oftimes required to go and return with a cargo of supplies.

The first settler of the township was Cyrus Barrett, who located with his family of ten members in the southeastern part, in 1838, and established his home near the present site of Kunkle. The Barretts came from Seneca county, New York, and built a rude log cabin in the Madison township wilds, chinking the same with mortar of mud and covering it with a roof of bark. The cabin was not larger than 18x20 feet; was built in such a hurry and with such a lack of assistance that the logs were but little better than poles; and it was graced with a very large chimney, made of sticks and clay, that was peculiarly ornamental as well as useful. The architectural design is thus mentioned in detail, as the building was the finest in the township; and it is reasonable to conclude, judging from ordinary human emotion and character, that Mr. Barrett was the proudest, as well as the wealthiest resident. A well-populated temporary encampment of native North Americans was standing on the Little St. Joseph, near the forks, at this time; and these nomadic people were, perhaps, Mr. Barrett's nearest neighbors—nearest in that they visited his humble abode more than occasionally and remained with him longer than necessary, as the wants of these humble denizens of the woods led their natures to covet almost everything of value in the white man's possession. They were mild, but importunate, and took evasion or negation to their demands with all the admirable imperturbability that is usually ascribed as a mental endowment of that product of modern civilization—the tramp. But, withal, they were interesting if not pleasant neighbors, as the family of Mr. Barrett had ample proof.

Talmond Reasoner built his cabin during the summer of 1839, and, in 1840, Albert and David Angell arrived with their families, locating on the eastern tier of sections of the present Madison township. Josiah Woodworth had settled on this tier of sections in the autumn of 1838. In 1841 and 1842, the following settlers came in: David Connelly, who located in the extreme southeastern corner on the thirty-rod strip; Samuel Tremains, Jones Whitney, J. A. Rogers, George Reasoner, Isaac R. Carpenter and P. W. Norris. Thomas Spencer, another early settler, was a native of Pennsylvania, who removed to Harrison county, Ohio, in early manhood, and thence to Williams county, some time prior to 1839. He lived here the remainder of his life, and died February 4, 1863.

The pioneer schools were early established in Madison township, in 1842, the first school-house—a rude log structure—being erected one mile east of Kunkle's Corners. This was before the township was organized, and it was located where it was thought it would do the most good. The probability is that a Miss Angell taught the first term, though this is not certain. It is known that she taught in the township during the early 40's, though it may be that she was not the first teacher. In March, 1844, the township was divided so as to contain five school districts, and Alanson Smith was an early teacher in them. District No. 4 (near Pioneer) had school in the cabin of Mr. Johnson, as early as 1844, and several terms were taught there, though but few children were in the neighborhood. The first school house—a frame building—was erected there, in 1847, on the site of the old burying ground. The first teacher was Miss Rachel Baker of Amboy, Michigan, who taught a summer term of three months for one dollar a week and "boarded around." Schools did not start up in the northeast part of the township until about the year 1850, when two frame school-houses were erected. Old District No. 3, in the southeast part, had a school in 1852, in a cabin owned by D. J. Worley, the teacher being Miss Julia Clark of Jefferson township. She conducted a very successful school with about twenty-two pupils enrolled, but some trouble arose over the use of the house and the latter part of the term was taught in the cabin of Henry Sheets. After two or three years a log school-house was built near the "Basswood" church, and the first teacher therein was John West. A frame school-house was erected at the center of the township, about 1852, Milton Zuver being the first teacher. There are seven schools in the township at the present time, exclusive of the Pioneer graded schools, and they are in charge of a corps of specially qualified teachers, whose tenure of office is dependent upon their success in their chosen calling.

The primitive saw-mills of pioneer days were erected as necessity demanded, and, being inexpensive in construction, they were abandoned when neighborhood needs were supplied. In 1852 or 1853, a Mr. Kirkendall and Jacob Dohm built a saw-mill on the river a short distance east of Pioneer, securing a fall of about five feet by extending the race across a bend of the stream. Kirkendall retained his interest only a short time and then sold to Dohm, who owned and conducted the mill many years, at times doing a splendid business. It remained a water mill while in operation and the old race is still visible. The dam was destroyed by order of court, as it had become a nuisance, but the old building stood for years, silent and deserted. In 1854, Philetus W. Norris built a grist-mill and a saw-mill at Pioneer, operating both with one engine, and placing in the former two sets of buhrs. After the saw-mill had been in operation some ten years it was destroyed by fire, but the grist-mill continued in operation and was the predecessor of the Phoenix Flouring Mills of Pioneer. In 1862, George R. Joy built a saw-mill and did good and profitable work with it until he disposed of it, and it finally became the property of Emery Sibley & Co. Snowdon & Schenk erected a tannery at Pioneer, about 1867, sinking some ten or twelve vats, but the property changed hands many times and finally discontinued.

The village of Pioneer was laid out in October, 1853, some eleven years after the first settlement on its site, and although it has never enjoyed or been cursed with a "boom," its growth has been steady; and the population should be judged by its quality rather than quantity. There are several well-stocked mercantile houses, a hotel, two liveries, and mechanical shops. Pioneer is a desirable trading point and is sustained by an excellent farming community in southern Michigan and Madison township. The entrance of the Toledo & Western Electric Railway into the town, in 1903, has given an impetus to the growth of the village and a long desired connection with the outside world.

Kunkle is a small village on the Detroit and Montpelier branch of the Wabash Railroad, the only town on a steam railway in Madison township. The old place known as Kunkle's Corners was never properly laid out and recorded, but its later pretentions have been as great as those of many villages which were first placed on the map by that method. As it grew in importance it was given the name of Kunkle in honor of an early merchant in the place. It is a pleasant little town of about three hundred and fifty inhabitants, in the center of a rich agricultural district. There are several mercantile houses, a grist-mill, mechanical shops, produce houses and a fine school. Philip Weidner was the first postmaster and Augustus Moore was the first merchant. The village does a thriving business.

The first religious organization in Madison township which had more than a nominal existence was of the Methodist denomination, and was organized in the old "Basswood" school house, in the southwestern part, not far from 1858. Rev. Daniel Brown was the officiating clergyman. There were but few members at first, though the class was greatly strengthened by United Brethren and Winebrinerians, who joined in worship and helped to bear the expense of keeping the class together. The school-house was used until the church was built, about 1869. By that time the old Methodist class had almost wholly disappeared, and the society had become Winebrinerian, the church being constructed under the auspices of members of the latter denomination, though much assistance was received from other classes and from outsiders. A Sunday school was first organized there during the early '60's, and it has been kept up a portion of the time since. The church succeeded from the start and soon became one of the leading religious organizations in that section of the country. Among the pastors who were in charge during the earlier years of its existence were Revs. Brown, Stewart, Porter, Neal, Opdycke, Cline, Sands, McKee, Mowan, Lilly and Stough.

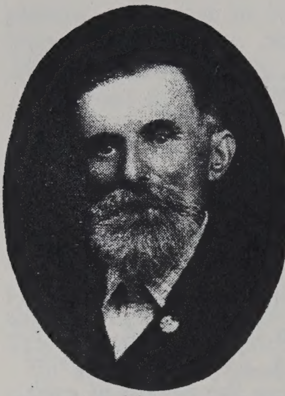
In about the year 1862, the United Brethren class at Union Chapel was organized. It soon became self sustaining, and in 1870-71 erected a house of worship. A Sunday school was organized in the spring of 1871 and was held every summer during the following years.

As early as 1846, the Evangelists and the United Brethren held meetings in the old brick school house in the southeastern part of the township, and finally at Kunkle's Corners. It is said that early preaching was held at the old cabin of the Barretts as early as 1843, the ministers being circuit riders who appeared about once a month. The Presbyterian Church at Kunkle was built about 1872.

In 1852, the Methodist Episcopal class at Pioneer was organized, in the old school house, with some six or eight members. The class grew stronger under the impulse of stirring revivals, and, in 1859-60, was strong enough to build a frame church, which was used constantly until succeeded by a fine brick structure. This is the strongest class in the township, and its excellent influence is felt over a large section of country. The United Brethren class at Pioneer was first organized a short time after the Methodists started their organization, and the first class consisted, it is said, of twelve members. The church was built in 1860. In April, 1870, the Baptist class at Pioneer was organized, and a church was erected by them in 1881-82.

BIOGRAPHICAL

ABRAHAM ADAMS, a well-to-do farmer and stock raiser of Northwest township, Williams county, O., is a native of Richland county, O., where he was born June 2, 1845. He is the son of Isaac and Mary (Miller) Adams, the former born in Cumberland county, Pa., March 22, 1812, and the latter June 6, 1814. Isaac Adams grew to manhood on the parental farm without receiving the benefit of even a common school education. About the year 1841 he came to Ohio, locating on a farm in Richland county. Although he began life's work quite poor and without any education at all, he owned two hundred acres of valuable and highly productive land and was the possessor of fifteen hundred dollars in money at the time of his death. In politics he was an active Democrat, and with his wife was a member of the Lutheran church. He died on the home farm in 1882, and his widow died six years later. To these parents there were born fifteen children, ten of whom grew to manhood. Abraham Adams was reared on the parental farm and received a fair common school education. In 1880 he removed to Williams county and settled on a farm of thirty acres in Northwest township. To this farm he has since added fifty-seven acres, so that he now has, altogether, eighty-seven acres. Being an enterprising and successful farmer, he has brought this land to a high state of cultivation and has erected on it a substantial residence and out-buildings. In the breeding of trotting and road horses he has been quite successful. He is a Democrat, and with his wife is a member of the Christian Union church at Berlin, O. On April 16, 1875, he was wedded to Miss Virginia Bly, born November 2, 1850, the daughter of Henry and Roana (Miller) Bly, both natives of Virginia, the former the son of Adam Bly, a soldier in the war of 1812, and the latter the daughter of Gus Miller, a Virginian. The parents of Mrs. Adams came to Richland county, O., in 1852, where they resided until 1878, when they removed to Williams county and located on a farm near West Unity. Here the father died on May 4. 1883, and his widow on July 6, 1888. Of the fifteen children born to them twelve were daughters and three were sons. All grew to manhood and womanhood. To Abraham Adams and wife the following children were born: Melvin J., Marion G., Isaac H., Elva E., and one that died in infancy.



JOHN ALLMAN, one of the representative farmers and honored citizens of Superior township, is a veteran of the Civil war and is a scion of old Colonial stock, both his paternal and maternal ancestors having settled in America prior to the Revolution. It is well authenticated, though details are not accessible to the subject of this sketch, that the Allman family came originally from the province of Alsace, France, now a portion of Germany, being of the Huguenot faith, and for that reason compelled to flee their native land on account of religious persecution. The original progenitors in the new world came here prior to the war of the Revolution, settling first in New Jersey, whence members of the family later removed to Maryland, and finally they were found established in Washington county, Pa. Ebenezer Allman, grandfather of John Allman of this sketch, was born in Maryland, November 11, 1764, and he resided in Pennsylvania until about 1810, when he came to Ohio and located in Stark county, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, his vocation having been that of farming. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical Association, founded by Rev. Jacob Albright and often erroneously designated as the German Methodist church. February 4, 1782, Ebenezer Allman married Miss Agnes Carrell, and they became the parents of thirteen children, whose names, with respective dates of birth, are here noted: George, February 4, 1787; William, July 25, 1789; Jane, January 5, 1791; Mary, December 28, 1793; John, November 21, 1795; Daniel, September 16, 1797; Carl, May 10, 1800; Heyman, January 1, 1803; James and Barney (twins), May 26, 1806; Sarah, May 26, 1808; Elizabeth, April 6, 1810, and Margaret, November 24, 1811. James Allman, father of him whose name introduces this article, was born in Washington county, Pa., on the date noted in the foregoing list. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Stark county, O., where he was reared to manhood, receiving such educational advantages as the pioneer schools afforded. He was engaged in farming in that county until the autumn of 1840, when he disposed of his properties there and came to Williams county, purchasing a tract of land in Superior township, on a portion of which his son John now resides. In 1842 he brought his family to the new home, and he continued to devote himself to reclaiming and cultivating his farm until his death, which occurred September 13, 1846. June 11, 1829, he married Miss Margaret Anspaugh, who was born in Berks county, Pa., September 25, 1810, being a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Anspaugh and a granddaughter of George Anspaugh, who was a patriot soldier in the war of the Revolution. Following is a list of the names of the children of James and Margaret (Anspaugh) Allman, the respective dates of birth being entered in connection: Catherine, May 3, 1831; Barnabas

P., March 20, 1833; Heyman Carl, August 12, 1835; Magdalena, May 7, 1839; John, December 27, 1840; Agnes, October 3, 1843, and Jacob, February 21, 1846. It may further be noted that Heyman C. Allman was a member of Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, in which he served three years. He was wounded in the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., September 1, 1864, and died on the 6th of the same month, as a result of his injuries. He was buried at Marietta, Ga. James Allman was a stanch Democrat, taking an active part in local affairs, and he served as township trustee and treasurer. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as steward and Sunday-school superintendent. His wife was summoned into eternal rest on August 21, 1890. John Allman was reared on the home farm, on which he now resides, and duly availed himself of the advantages of the local schools of Superior township, which he attended at intervals until he was eighteen years of age. He was born in Stark county, and was about two years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, where he has ever since maintained his home. After leaving school he learned the carpenter's trade, to which he devoted his attention until the outbreak of the civil war. August 29, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, taking part in the engagements at Wildcat, Ky., Mill Springs, siege of Corinth, battle of Shiloh, and in the Nashville campaign, taking part in the battle of Stone River. On the 8th of November, 1862, he was detailed from his regiment into the pioneer corps, and after the battle of Stone River he was detailed to a pontoon battalion. In June, 1862, he was promoted to the position of forage master, and in the following September was made wagonmaster. Later he returned to the Thirty-eighth Ohio, having veteranized and re-enlisted. He served in the campaign from Ringgold to Atlanta, and on the 12th of August, 1863, was transferred to the First United States Engineers. From that time until the close of the war he was identified with the building of forts, barracks, warehouses, blockhouses, etc. He received his honorable discharge in the latter part of September, 1865, and then returned to his home, having made a record for valiant and faithful service in the cause of his country. After his return to Williams county he was engaged in carpenter work for one year, after which he turned his attention to farming, which has ever since engrossed his attention. His farm comprises one hundred and sixteen acres, all under cultivation and improved with good buildings and other modern accessories, and this place is doubly valued by him from the fact that it is the old homestead place which was secured by his honored father more than sixty years ago. In politics Mr. Allman is a stalwart Republican, taking a loyal interest in local affairs and in the success of the party cause, but never seeking official preferment, though he has rendered efficient service as school director. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in a fraternal way he is a valued member of Hiram Louden Post, No. 155, Grand Army of the Republic, at Montpelier. November 19, 1865, Mr. Allman was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Simpson, daughter of John and Charlotte (Slutz) Simpson, of Stark county, O., and concerning their children the following is a brief record: Franklin, born September 28, 1866, married Jane Farley, and they have three children—Edith, Ora and Alice; Edgar, born January 12, 1869, died October 16, 1876; Charles S., born January 26, 1871, is associated with his father in the operation of the home farm; Elva, born August 6, 1873, is the wife of Elmer Lytle, of Quincy, Mich., and her twin sister, Eva, remains at the parental home; and Clara J., born November 12, 1876, is the wife of Charles Bowen, of Bridgewater township, their children being Ethel R. and Robert.

ALVA AMES, trustee of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., is a native of Ohio, having been born in Wayne county, September 19, 1847. His parents were James and Mary Ann (Maxwell) Ames, natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew to manhood and womanhood. Coming with their parents to Ohio, they were married in Wayne county, and in 1853, removed to Williams county, locating on a farm of eighty acres in Pulaski township. This land, secured by trading a like number of acres in St. Joseph township, was all woodland at that time. Here James Ames erected a log cabin, cleared the land and followed farming until after the Civil war. He was prominent in the councils of the Republican party, holding the office of township trustee for some years, and quite successful in his business affairs. In religious matters he was identified with the Universalist church. To him and his first wife were born five children, whose names follow: Harvey D., who served in the Civil war as a private of Company D of the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, and is now a resident of Harvey, Kas.; Alva, the subject of this sketch; James, a resident of Hicksville, O.; Harmon of Butler, Ind.; and Mary Ann, the wife of John Skelton of Wells county, O. His second wife, Mrs. Mary Ellen Ames, was a widow before her marriage to him, and to this marriage were born four children. They are: Otis of Fulton county; Enos P., also of Fulton county; Catharine, the wife of Huey Thiel of Williams county, and Anna Bell of Williams county. During the latter part of his life he made his home with his children. Alva Ames grew to manhood on the home farm and received but a limited education, as he had to work hard from his boyhood. In March, 1865, he enlisted in Company C of the One Hundred and Ninety-Fifth Ohio volunteer infantry and was assigned to the Twenty-Fourth Army Corps under General Hancock, being promoted to corporal. He was mustered out of service in the December following, having spent his short enlistment principally in skirmish duty. After receiving his discharge he returned home and resumed his work on the home farm, where he remained until twenty-two years old. Farming and clearing land and saw milling have taken up all of his time. In politics he has always figured prominently as a Republican, having served four years each as councilman, constable and township trustee, also as a school director. He is a member of Bryan Post, No. 149, Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Reformed church. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Buhler of Wayne county, who died in 1881, leaving one son, Bert W., now sheriff of Williams county. His second wife was Mrs. Ellen Supple, the widow of John Supple, and the daughter of William Miller of Defiance, O. To this union there have been born four children. Their names are, Charles R. of Bryan, Dora, Irving L. and Alva Eston.

BERT W. AMES, a veteran of the Spanish-American war and sheriff of Williams county, O., was born in Jefferson township of that county on August 30, 1878. His parents were Alva and Jennie (Buhler) Ames, a sketch of the former of whom appears above. At the age of three years he was so unfortunate as to lose his mother, which fact necessitated his making his home with his uncle, James Ames. When his father, three years later, married a second time he returned to the parental roof, where he grew to manhood, receiving only a limited common school education. On April 26, 1898, he enlisted in Company E of the Sixth Ohio regiment, and served until May 26, 1899, spending four months of that time in Cuba. Following the war with Spain he served as First Lieutenant of his company until his election to public office. In 1901 he became deputy sheriff, and in November, two years later, was elected sheriff, a position that he is now filling with great credit to himself as well as to the public. Mr. Ames is actively identified with Free Masonry, being a Chapter Mason and also a member of Defiance Commandery in that organization. He was married on December 31, 1903, his choice of a partner on life's journey being Miss Sylvia O. Smeltz, a native of Williams county (where she was born March 9, 1881), the daughter of Philip and Mary (Ginther) Smeltz. At the November election of 1905, Mr. Ames was re-elected to the office of sheriff by over 1,000 majority.

SAMUEL ANDRE is one of those progressive and intelligent citizens who have given material aid to the development and advancement of the agricultural interests of Williams county, and he is the owner of a well improved farm in section 5, Madison township, while he stands as a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of the county. Mr. Andre was born in Jefferson township, this county, on the 29th of September, 1842, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Wagner) Andre, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania. They came to Williams county about 1834 and settled in Jefferson township, on a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land which had been secured from the government by George Wagner, father of Mrs. Andre and one of the early settlers of Ohio, his death having occurred near Tiffin, Seneca county. In that county also occurred the death of Jacob Andre, Sr., grandfather of the subject of this review. Jacob Andre, Jr., reclaimed a large portion of his land from the virgin forest and became one of the prosperous farmers and honored citizens of the county, having finally removed to Madison township, where he owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death, in 1895, at the age of seventy-six years. His devoted wife passed away in 1886, both having been consistent members of the United Brethren church, while in politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. Nine children were born to this honored pioneer couple and all are living. Samuel Andre had no lack of vigorous physical discipline during his youth, as he early began to assist in the reclamation and cultivation of the home farm, while his educational advantages were those afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. In 1874 he purchased eighty acres of wild land in Madison township and under his energetic and effective management the place was cleared and brought under cultivation, while he subsequently added to its area so that his homestead now comprises one hundred and sixty acres of most arable land, while the buildings and other permanent improvements are of substantial order. In addition to diversified agriculture he makes a specialty of raising polled Durham cattle and Shropshire sheep, and in both departments of his farm enterprise he has met with gratifying success. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and while he has never sought office he has shown a lively interest in all that has touched the welfare of the community, and has lent his aid and influence in support of measures and enterprises for the general good. In 1867 Mr. Andre was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Mott, who was born in Elkhart, Ind., being a daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Best) Mott, who were numbered among the early settlers of Madison township, Williams county, where both died. Mr. and Mrs. Andre have three children. Clara Bell is the wife of Stephen Lambright, of Akron, Ohio, and they have two children, Jesse and Paul Virgil. Hattie Ellen is the wife of Albert Double, of Lewiston, Mich., and they have two children, Flossie and Joseph McKinley. Thomas L., who remains at the parental home, met with an injury when one year of age and the result was his total blindness. He attended the International Business College at Fort Wayne, Ind., during the winter of 1904-5, and is a young man of superior intellectuality.

HIRAM D. ANSPAUGH, a prosperous farmer and stock dealer of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in that township on April 27, 1871. He is the grandson of James and Betsy (Hiple) Anspaugh, both natives of Stark county, O., where the former was born on September 22, 1808. James Anspaugh entered one hundred and one acres of land in Superior township in 1837, and three years later settled on and cleared it. After the death of his wife, on February 2, 1884, he made his home with his son Henry on a farm one and one-half miles west of Montpelier, where he resided until 1892, when he removed with his son to a farm two and one-half miles northwest of Montpelier, and there he died, October 2, 1898, aged ninety years and ten days. The parents of Hiram D. Anspaugh, are Samuel and Martha (Kollar) Anspaugh, the latter a daughter of David Kollar, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.

Samuel Anspaugh was born in Stark county, O., on November 20, 1836, and came with his parents to Williams county in 1840. Here he grew to manhood on the paternal farm and received a fair common school education. He owned a farm of two hundred and forty acres of land, on which he followed general farming and stock raising. For the past fifteen years he has resided in Wilson, Elsworth county, Kas. The following children were born to these parents: Amanda, deceased; Debora, Hiram D. and Harvey H. Hiram D. was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. He is a farmer and stock raiser by occupation and owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Florence township. As a Republican he is now serving on the Central committee of Williams county. In 1892 he chose as his life partner Miss Lizzie Bell Shafer, the daughter of Franklin Shafer, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Six children have been born to these parents, as follows: Harvey, deceased; Donald, Marion, Sidney, Martha and Kenneth.

DANIEL B. ATHY.—In the series of sketches appearing in this work it is pleasing to note that many of the representative citizens of the county have here made their home from the time of birth, while a very appreciable percentage of the leading farmers are native born. Of this number is Mr. Athy, who is a progressive agriculturist and popular citizen of Pulaski township, where he has a fine landed estate. He was born in Pulaski township, on the 22d of June, 1846, and is a son of Elijah and Mary (Mercer) Athy. Elijah Athy was born near Dayton, Ohio, in 1802, and was a son of Basil Athy, who was born in Maryland, in 1773, and who was among the first to locate in the vicinity of the present city of Dayton, Ohio; but so menacing were the Indians and so constant the warfare with them that he removed to West Virginia, settling near the Maryland line, not far distant from Hagerstown, in the latter state. Elijah was an infant when his father returned to Maryland and there he was reared to maturity, securing as good educational advantages as was offered in that day, later learning the carpenter trade, as well as that of millwright. In 1830 he removed to Richland county, Ohio, where he secured eighty acres of government land, the tract being the last to be thus taken from the government in that county. He reclaimed this farm from the forest wilds, and finally deeded it to his father, who there passed the closing years of his life. In 1840 Elijah Athy married Miss Mary Mercer, who was born in Crawford county, O., being a daughter of Adam Mercer, the maiden name of whose wife was Whitstone. A short time after his marriage Elijah Athy came to Williams county and secured land in Pulaski township, where he developed a good farm and became one of the substantial citizens of the county. He died December 3, 1883, and his cherished wife, who was born in 1822, died September 8, 1900, having been a devoted member of the religious body known as the Church of God. He was a stalwart Democrat in his political proclivities. They became the parents of nine children, concerning whom the following brief record is given: Catherine became the wife of Archibald Gusler and died in Center township; Emily Ann is the wife of Amos McCafferty, of Pulaski township; Daniel B. is the immediate subject of this review; Margaret is the wife of Samuel Bumpus, of Pulaski township; George W. and Archibald B. are farmers of Pulaski township; Delilah is the wife of Charles Jones, of Center township; Alfred died at the age of twelve years; and Viola is the wife of Frederick Rath, of Springfield township. Reared to the strenuous discipline of the, home farm, Daniel B. Athy early became familiar with the various details of work involved in the care and improvement of an agricultural estate, while his educational advantages were such as were to be had in the local schools, which he attended during the winter months. He remained on the farm until the death of his father and has lived in his native township from the time of his birth, save for a period of about two years, during which he was engaged in railway construction work, being in Toledo a portion of this time, but still claimed his home in Pulaski township. He now owns and occupies the old homestead, which comprises one hundred acres, all under cultivation except five acres. He devotes his attention to diversified agriculture and to the raising of a superior grade of live stock, including Norman horses and Poland-China swine. May 15, 1870, Mr. Athy was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ann Hudkins, daughter of James and Mary Ann (McKelvey) Hudkins, who came to Williams county from Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1848, the father being a cooper by vocation. Mrs. Athy was born in Center township on January 29, 1849, and has spent her entire life within six miles of her present home. Mr. and Mrs. Athy became the parents of three children, of whom the eldest, Silas Stanley, died at the age of three years. Mervin E., born February 27, 1872, is associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm. He married Miss Caroline Braun, of Springfield township, and they have one son, Lawrence F., born June 1, 1898. Rosetta M., born December 28, 1874, likewise remains at the parental home, both children having been afforded good educational advantages. Mr. Athy is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and in a fraternal way is identified with the Grange.

JOHN BAILEY, a prosperous farmer and highly respected citizen of Bridgewater township, Williams county, Ohio, was born in Richland county, O., December 13, 1831. He is the son of Joseph and Rebecca (Ford) Bailey, who removed from Ohio to Louisburg, Kas., and there ended their days. In politics Joseph Bailey was first a Whig and then a Republican. To Joseph Bailey and wife were born seven children, five daughters and two sons. John Bailey was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of Ashland county, O., and Gratiot county, Mich. During the Civil war he came to Bridgewater township, Williams county, O., and located on a tract of eighty acres of land which he cleared and improved. In addition to this land he owns eighty acres in Florence township. In political matters he is actively identified with the Republican party and has held various township and county offices, among them being that of county treasurer for two terms. In 1854 he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Hannah Parker, the daughter of Joseph S. Parker, a soldier of the war of 1812, who spent his last days in Ashland county, O. His first wife having died in 1864, John Bailey married Miss Nancy Phinney of Hillsdale county Mich., who died on November 8, 1904. To Mr. Bailey's first marriage there were born the following children: Nathaniel P., Joseph S., Eva and Louie, all of whom have grown to maturity and are married. Mr. Bailey is living quietly on the homestead, surrounded by all the comforts of a rural home.

ELMIR O. BALDWIN, the efficient secretary of the Montpelier Foundry and Furnace company, was born in Hillsdale county, Mich., on January 17, 1876. He is the son of A. H. Baldwin, at present holding the responsible position of treasurer of the same company with which the son is connected. E. O. Baldwin, after graduating from the Montpelier, O., high school, took a business course in the Detroit, Mich., commercial school, then fitting himself for life's active duties. His first independent work was done in the employ of the Michigan Penninsula Car company of Detroit. After serving this company faithfully and satisfactorily for some time, he received the appointment of tie inspector of the Wabash railway system, which position he held for eight years. While looking after the interests of this company his duties carried him through the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, etc. The company with which Mr. Baldwin became identified on February 8, 1904, and of which he is now secretary, is by far the most important manufacturing enterprise in Montpelier. The fact that the plant occupies fully fourteen thousand feet of floor space and employs the year round at least twenty skilled mechanics, is ample proof of its magnitude and importance. Lewis Wingert, the founder of the business, sold out to a corporation officered by G. L. Laser, as president, J. W. Lamberson, as vice-president, H. W. Wingert, as manager, J. P. Arnold and A. C. Hause, as secretaries, and O. M. Burns as treasurer. Upon the re-organization of the company, the office of general manager and that of one of the secretaries was abolished. The present officers are as follows: A. C. Hause, president; J. W. Lamberson, vice-president; E. O. Baldwin, secretary, and A. H. Baldwin, treasurer. The work of the concern is to manufacture hot air furnaces and to do all kinds of gray iron and brass casting. Among the products manufactured the leaders are the "Improved Rex," the "Winter King," and the "Home Comfort" furnaces. In the work of the Masonic lodge at Montpelier Mr. Baldwin takes a deep interest. In June, 1901, he was married to Miss Jessie C. Walters, a native of Fremont, O., and the daughter of A. J. Walters, for many years a well-known business man of Montpelier, and now a prominent resident of Adrian, Mich. To Mr. Baldwin and wife there have been born two children, Alice and Elmir O., Jr. Mr. Baldwin is a Republican in politics and takes an active interest in his party's councils. He is at present a member of theRepublican county central committee.

GEORGE ELANDER BARGER, a representative farmer of Williams county and a scion of one of its pioneer families, has a most attractive rural home, located contiguous to the village of Pioneer on the south, in Madison township. He was born in Jefferson township, this county, on the 4th of April, 1841, and is a son of William and Almira (Whitney) Barger, the former of whom was born in Trumbull county, O., March 4, 1813, and the latter of whom was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., April 29, 1810. George Barger, father of William, was born in Pennsylvania, November 13, 1773, and his wife, Julia Ann, *nee* Youngs, was born in that state, May 20, 1774. In 1816 they removed from the old Keystone state to Trumbull county, Ohio, whence they removed at a later period to Portage county, while in 1846 they came to Williams county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. William Barger was reared and educated at Ravenna, Portage county, Ohio, having been three years of age at the time of his parents' removal to that locality, where he was married in 1834. In 1838 he came to Williams county and located on a tract of eighty place and there making his home until February, 1861, when he came to Madison township, where he purchased eighty acres, most of which he reclaimed from the forest. On this homestead his death occurred, on the 13th of May, 1873. He was a Democrat in politics up to the time of the Civil war, after which he was a stanch Republican. In Ravenna, Portage county, on the 4th of November, 1834, William Barger maried Miss Almira Whitney, a daughter of Thomas and Irene (Place) Whitney, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. They removed from New York state to Portage county, Ohio, in 1831, being pioneers of that county. William Barger and wife became the parents of six children, Thomas J., a resident of Toledo, Ohio: Josephus W., deceased; Irene, wife of Harvey Judd; Martha S., wife of Thomas Mercer; Ann Maria, deceased; and George E., subject of this sketch. The loved and devoted mother, who was a noble Christian woman, died on the 10th of February, 1903, at the venerable age of ninety-two years. George E. Barger secured a common school education in the pioneer schools of Jefferson township, and was reared to the discipline of the farm. In 1862 he went to the present state of Oregon, where he engaged in farming and stock-growing, there continuing to reside until August, 1899, when he returned to his native county, soon afterward buying a farm across the line in Hillsdale county, Mich. This property he sold in 1901 and thereupon purchased his present fine farm of forty acres, just south of the corporate limits of the town of Pioneer, Madison township, where he is giving a general supervision to his agricultural and stock-growing interests, finding it most agreeable to be amid the scenes and among the friends of his youth. In politics he renders allegiance to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. September 15, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Barger to Miss Elizabeth Miller, who was born in Wayne county, O., being a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Shelhammer) Miller, both natives of Pennsylvania and both of whom died in Wayne county, Ohio. Mr. Barger is a member of the Masonic order, Pioneer Lodge No. 441.

SAMUEL S. BARGER, a representative farmer and citizen of Madison township, was born on his present homestead farm, on the 27th of May, 1853, and is a son of John and Martha (Davis) Barger, the former of whom was born September 4, 1802 and the latter March 9, 1811. Both had been previously married. The maiden name of the first wife of John Barger was Barbara Ann Lambright, and she bore him eight children, of whom three are living. Martha Davis first married Jesse Best, and of their four children one is living. George Barger, father of John and founder of the family in Ohio, was born in Pennsylvania, November 13, 1773, and in that state also was born his wife, Julia Ann (Youngs) Barger, on the 20th of May, 1774. In 1816 they removed from Pennsylvania to Trumbull county, Ohio, and a few years later took up their residence near Ravenna, Portage county, whence they came, in 1846, to Williams county, where both passed the remainder of their lives. John Barger had come to this county in 1838, and he first located in Jefferson township, where he cleared a farm, which he later sold. He then bought eighty acres of wild land in Madison township, and selling this property, he bought eighty acres of wild land on the Bryan pike; later selling it he then purchased the farm on which Samuel S. Barger now resides. Here he died on the 7th of May, 1874, and his wife died January 1, 1888. They had three children, of whom two are living, Samuel S. and Abigail, the latter being the wife of John Tingley and resides in Montcalm county, Mich. John Barger was originally a Whig in politics, but joined the ranks of the Republican party at the time of its organization. His second wife was a devoted member of the Free Methodist church. Samuel S. Barger grew to manhood on his present farm, where he has always made his home, while his early educational training was secured in the Deer Lick schoolhouse. He has added thirty-nine acres to the estate since the death of his father, so that his farm now comprises seventy-nine ecres, while it is one of the model places of the county, having good improvements and being maintained under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Barger also makes a specialty of the breeding of Morgan horses, fine specimens of which are to be found on his farm at all times. He is an uncompromising Republican and has served as supervisor, besides holding other minor offices of local trust. May 20, 1875, Mr. Barger was married to Miss Minerva Jane Parsons, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, May 31, 1853, being a daughter of Newton and Ellen Parsons, who removed to Henry county, Ohio, in 1860, the latter there dying in 1864. In 1870 Mr. Parsons came to Williams county, where his death occurred in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Barger became the parents of two children: Elmer A., born February 21, 1877, died June 5, 1893; and

Arthur L., born May 4, 1886, is associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm. Mrs. Barger, who was a devoted wife and mother and loyal friend, was summoned to the life eternal on the 6th of October, 1902, having been a consistent member of the United Brethren church.

LUCIUS W. BASH, a successful farmer of near Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in that county January 13, 1853. He is the son of Jacob and Sabrina (Doty) Bash, both natives of Ohio. His grandparents were Jacob and Catherine (Whetstone) Bash, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. Jacob Bash and two brothers emigrated to America and settled in Baltimore, Md., removing from there first to Pennsylvania and afterwards to Wood county, O., where he died. His wife was the daughter of Peter Whetstone, a large land owner of Crawford county. Jacob Bash, the father of Lucius W. Bash, was a native of Crawford or Richland county (as the county boundries were changed about that time it is difficult to say which) and removed from there to Williams county in 1844, locating first in Florence township, then in Springfield township and finally in Center township, where he died in 1875, aged about sixty-six years. In addition to clearing the farm which he owned in Center township he cleared one in Springfield township and a tract of land in Florence township. In politics he was first a Whig, then a Free Soiler and lastly a Republican, joining that party at its birth. His wife was the daughter of Lyman Doty and wife, who prior to her marriage was Mrs. Maria Briggs, both natives of New York. They removed to Crawford county in an early day, soon after their marriage, coming finally to Williams county. He died in Clarksville, Milford township, Defiance county, in 1859, and his wife in Farmer township of that county May 15, 1895, aged ninety-four and one-half years. Jacob Bash and wife were the parents of thirteen children, of whom seven are still living. Those living are: Maria, the wife of Benjamin Snyder of Edgerton; John W. of Farmer township, Defiance county; Lucius W.; Clarissa, the wife of Samuel Wines, a farmer of Center township; Jennie, now Mrs. Frank Severence of Farmer township; Ira E., born in Williams county, July 8, 1862, educated in the common schools, a Republican in politics, the owner of a farm in Whitley county, Ind., where he married Miss Martha Pence, and is now living on the old homestead in Center township; Sylvia, the wife of Charles Uran of Logansport, Ind. Lucius W. Bash was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. He owns the old homestead of one hundred and thirteen acres and follows general farming. In politics he is identified with the Republican party.

FRED. A. BAUER, a prominent and successful farmer of Northwest township, Williams county, Ohio, is of German descent, both of his parents having been born in Germany. He is the son of Henry and Catherine (Heiser) Bauer. Henry Bauer was seventeen yars old when he emigrated to the United States. After landing at New York

City he came directly to Ohio, locating finally in Crawford county, where he was married. In 1864 he removed to Williams county, locating on a farm of seventy acres in Northwest township. To his original purchase he afterwards added one hundred acres, making a total of one hundred and seventy acres. As this land was largely covered with heavy timber, it required a vast amount of work to clear it. At the time of his death, on March 22, 1891, he had brought the land to a high state of cultivation, having equipped it with substantial buildings. His widow survives him and still resides on the homestead. Of the nine children that were born to these parents eight are yet living. Fred. A. Bauer was born in Crawford county, O., on October 19, 1863. He grew to manhood on the farm and received such an education as the common schools of his home county afforded. As a farmer he has met with unusual success, and today he is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. In 1888 he was wedded to Miss Jennette Waterston of Williams county, daughter of Simon Waterston, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Three children have been born to these parents. They are: Ralph, Seely, and Ruth.

THOMAS J. BAUM, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business, and is also an incument of the office of justice of the peace in Montpelier, is a representative of one of the worthy and well known pioneer families of Williams county. He was born in Florence township, this county, on the 24th of October, 1853, and is a scion of sturdy German stock, the original ancestor in the new world having come hither in an early day, while from Pennsylvania came the founders of the Ohio branch of the family. John and Susanna (Gibbons) Baum, parents of Thomas J., were born in Summit county, Ohio. The former was born November 3, 1822, and the latter was born March 29, 1833. They were married August 29, 1852. John Baum came to Williams county in 1851, purchasing a tract of land in Florence township and reclaiming the same to cultivation, becoming one of the prosperous farmers and highly esteemed citizens of that section. He continued to reside on his farm until there came the call of higher duty, the integrity of the Union being menaced by armed rebellion. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued in service until 1865, when he came home on invalid furlough, his death occurring November 16, 1865. His widow now resides with her only daughter, Martha E., widow of James Miller, in Stillwater, Okla. Of the six children Thomas J. was the first born, and four of the number are living, two who were twins having died in infancy. John Baum espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization, and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his widow also is a devoted member. Thomas J. Baum was reared on the home farm, in Florence township, and received his early education in the common schools of the locality.

After leaving school he was identified with agricultural pursuits for several years, after which he passed four years as salesman in a general store in Blakeslee, this county. For the ensuing five years he was associated with the A. B. Ninkey Lumber Company, of Blakeslee, O., and then for ten years he was with W. S. Boon in the lumber business at Montpelier, O. He was then elected to the office of justice of the peace, of which he has since remained incumbent, his present term expiring in 1908. He is also engaged in the real estate and fire insurance business, in which he is meeting with success. He is a stanch adherent of the Republcan party, and is serving his second term as a member of the county central committee, representing the west precinct of Montpelier. He and his wife are valued and zealous members of the local Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a steward and secretary of the board of trustees. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and has passed the various official chairs in the local lodge. February 3, 1876, Mr. Baum was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Hammell, who was born in St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., September 2, 1854, and a daughter of Russell and Henrietta (Van Wormer) Hammell, the former a representative farmer of St. Joseph township. Mr. and Mrs. Baum have two children: Otis A., who is engaged in the barbering business in Montpelier, was married to Miss Grace Welch, October 28, 1903, and Mabel, who remains at the parental home. Russell Hammell was born in the state of New York, November 22, 1817. Mrs. Hammell was born on March 25, 1829. They were married August 25, 1853. Mr. Hammell died February 1, 1903, at Fremont, Ind.

FREDERICK E. BEACH, surviving partner of the firm of Beach & Son, dealers in furniture and undertaking, of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born in West Unity on November 27, 1876. He is the son of David and Elizabeth (Smith) Beach, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. David Beach was born in 1844 and when eighteen years old removed to Ohio, locating in West Unity, Williams county, where he learned and for some time followed the carpenter's trade. After working for another party for some years in a wagon shop, he erected a shop of his own in the same town and began the manufacture of wagons and buggies, his efforts being crowned with marked success. In 1887 he and Adam Smith, his brother-in-law, embarked in the undertaking business in West Unity, and conducted that line of work very successfully for a period of twelve years, when Mr. Beach disposed of his interest in the firm. January 16, 1899, he and his son, F. E. Beach, purchased the furniture and undertaking business of N. G. Lash in Montpelier and at once took charge of same under the firm name of Beach & Son, launching the business that has ever since been so successfully conducted. He was a Republican in politics and served on the West Unity council and school board. Mr. Beach was a Mason and with his wife an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having at all times manifested a lively interest in all branches of church work, especially in the Sunday school, of which he was treasurer for many years. As a helpmate in life's journey he chose Miss Elizabeth Smith, of West Unity, the daughter of Adam and Catherine (Drum) Smith, prominent and highly respected citizens of Williams county. He died in 1900. Of the eleven children born to these parents six are yet living. Those living are: Frederick E.; Carl, who is married and the father of twin children; Herman, Mary, Lizzie and Marcus, all residents of West Unity except the eldest. Frederick E. Beach grew to manhood at his parental home in West Unity and graduated from its public schools in 1894. While going to school he spent his vacations and the time after school hours in the furniture and undertaking establishment of his father. The first two years after his graduation from school he spent in the employ of Adam Smith, engaged in the same line of work in West Unity, where he remained in business until he located in Montpelier. Mr. Beach is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, and with his wife a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His choice for a partner in life's journey was Miss Lizzie B. Hager, the daughter of Thomas and Lydia Hager, of West Unity. To these parents there have been born the following children: Evelin, Carmon, Audrey and David.

REMUS O. BEACH, a successful farmer and stock breeder of Northwest township, was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, O., on August 7, 1856. He is the son of Rial and Lucinda (Smith) Beach, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Pennsylvania. Rial Beach came to Northwest township, Williams county, O., on March 23, 1869, and settled on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. In 1883 he removed to Steuben county, Ind., where he located on a farm and ended his days. For many years he followed the occupation of teaching, and taught the first school in Harris Corners, Steuben county. In public affairs he always took a deep interest, and served as justice of the peace in Hancock county and as school director and clerk in Northwest township. In politics he was an ardent Democrat. He died on May 11, 1886, and is survived by his widow, who is seventy-one years old and a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To their marriage there were born ten children, six of whom are still living. John Smith, the maternal grandfather of our subject and the father of Mrs. Beach, was a native of Germany, who ended his days in East Gilbert, Branch county, Mich., dying in 1876. Remus O. Beach was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of Steuben and Williams counties. While engaged for a number of years as mill-man and thresher, his principal occupation has always been farming and stock raising. In the breeding of Norman horses he has met with remarkable success. In political affairs he is affiliated with the Republican party. He is an active member of Camden Lodge, No. 312, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On December 28, 1879, he was wedded to Miss Rebecca J. Haughey, a daughter of Robert K. Haughey, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To this union there has been born the following children: Orrilla Pearl, born January 23, 1881; Robert Eugene, born June 10, 1882; Curtis Dale, born November 16, 1883; William Rodney, born June 9, 1885; Ada Aleto, born March 28, 1888; Remus Leverne, born February 27, 1891; Glenn, deceased, born June 13, 1892; Clytice May, born October 29, 1893, and twins that died in infancy.

LORIN A. BEARD, M. D., a prominent physician of Pioneer, O., was born in Superior township, Williams county, on October 20, 1861. He is the son of John L. and Emily (Kollar) Beard, the former born in Seneca county, O., in 1831. John L. Beard was educated at Republic Heidelburg College of Seneca county, and has served as a teacher and surveyor, following the latter avocation in the construction of railroads in the West. He came to Williams county when a young man and has resided here ever since. For a short time he taught school in Shulsburg, Wis. During the Civil war he served as a private in the Twenty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, being honorably discharged at its close. At present he is living in Montpelier, retired from active business. He is a Republican, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Methodist Episcopal church. By his first wife he had two children, Lorin A. and Edgar, who died in infancy. The maiden name of his second wife was Elizabeth Platt, the daughter of John Platt, a pioneer in Williams county. Of the five children born to this union three are yet living. Dr. Lorin A. Beard was reared on a farm and worked for three years as a farm hand. After teaching five years he attended Rush Medical College one year and graduated from the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery at Detroit on March 14, 1890. On May 1st of the same year he began the practice of medicine at Pioneer. His success has been phenomenal, and is due to his own thrift and determination. Beginning with comparatively nothing, he educated himself and now owns a fine farm of eighty acres in Madison township and a comfortable home in Pioneer. As a stockholder in the Pioneer Telephone Company he takes a very active part in that enterprise. The Doctor is a member of the Williams County Medical Association, the Tri-State Medical Society, a charter member of Superior Lodge, No. 269, Knights of Pythias, and Joy Lodge, No. 441, Free and Accepted Masons. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party, and has served as county coroner. On April 20, 1890, he was wedded to Miss Grace Hogue, a daughter of Levi and Alatha (Yoder) Hogue, of Williams county. The following children have been born to this union: Rex W., Alatha R., Lewis L. and Paul S.

EMERY A. BECHTOL, M. D., a highly successful physician of Bridgewater township, is a native of the same township, in Williams county, having been born on July 18, 1869. His grandparents, Adam and Mary (Starr) Bechtol, both natives of Pennsylvania, removed to Stark county, O., in an early day, and in 1837 located on a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Williams county. As this land was heavily wooded, it required a vast amount of labor to clear and prepare it for cultivation. For some years in early life he followed the trade of moulder, but later gave his undivided attention to farming, in which occupation he was very successful. He was a Republican in politics, having held the office of township assessor, and with his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, the church services being held at his residence. Of the eight children born to him and wife five are still living. John K. Bechtol, the father of Emery A., was born in Stark county, O., on July 3, 1838. He was reared on the home farm and received such an education as the common schools of his day afforded. In 1865 he bought the farm of one hundred and thirteen acres in Bridgewater township that he now owns, and three years later settled on it. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party, and for eleven years has served as school director. He and wife are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. John K. Bechtol was first married in 1862 to Miss Rebecca Ann Wisman, of Williams county. Two children were born to this union, named Adam E. and John M. His wife died in 1865, and three years later he married Miss Sarah Wisman, a cousin of his first wife, by whom he had four children. They are: Emery A.; Eli C., a physician of White, Hillsdale county, Mich.; Clarence E., a druggist of North Manchester, Ind.; and Freeman, a farmer residing on the homestead. The second wife of John K. Bechtol having died in March, 1901, he married a third time on December 25, 1903, the lady of his choice being Miss Frances Brown. Having been drafted into the United States army in 1864 he served as a private in Company H, of the Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, until the close of the war. He took part in the capture of Fort McAllister. Dr. Emery A. Bechtol grew to manhood on the paternal homestead and was educated in the common schools of his home county and the Pioneer high school. After completing his literary education he became a student of the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery, at Detroit, graduating from that institution in 1892. He at once began the practice of his chosen profession and has met with unusual success. That he keeps fully abreast of the times is witnessed by the fact that he is an active member of the Williams county and the Tri-State medical associations. In politics he is closely identified with the Republican party, and is the present county coroner. On November 30, 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Etta Brandon, the daughter of Hugh and Adelaide (Culbertson) Brandon, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Two children have been born to this union. They are: Hal C., born December 1, 1894, and Harland Ray, born October 30, 1896, now attending school. Mrs. Bechtol is a member of the United Brethren church.

EZRA E. BECHTOL, who is a resident of Montpelier, where he is an incumbent of the office of justice of the peace, is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Williams county, which has been his home from the time of his birth, while he was one of the native sons of said county who went forth to swell the ranks of the "boys in blue," who fought so valiantly to preserve the Union when its integrity was jeopardized by armed rebellion. He formerly served as clerk of courts for Williams county and he is well known throughout this section, where his friends are in number as his acquaintances. Mr. Bechtol was born on the old homestead farm, in Superior township, this county, on the 7th of March, 1841, and is a son of Adam and Mary (Starr) Bechtol, the paternal ancestry tracing back to sturdy German origin and the maternal to Welsh stock. The original American ancestors of the Bechtol family located in Lebanon county, Pa., and agriculture seems to have been the chief vocation of the majority of its representatives in the earlier generations. Adam Bechtol was born in Lebanon county, Pa., in the year 1809, and there learned the moulder's trade, while he received a common school education. He worked at his trade in the old Keystone state for several years and then came as a pioneer to Ohio, locating first in Massillon, Stark county, where he followed his trade until 1836, when he came to Williams county and secured two hundred and forty acres of government land, in Superior township, the tract being an unbroken forest. The township was not organized until about two years after he took up his residence here, and his embryonic farm was located in township 7, north of range 2 east, according to the designation of the government survey. In 1837 he located on his land, bringing his family and taking up his abode in a log cabin of the primitive type, common to the period and locality. He lived to witness the marvelous transformation of this section from the condition of a forest wilderness to that of a rich and prosperous agricultural and industrial locality, while he rendered his quota of aid in forwarding this advancement, since he reclaimed his farm and made it one of the best in the township, while his aid and influence were ever extended in the effecting of public improvements, both material and civic. He continued to reside on his farm until his death, which occurred January 31, 1887, and his name merits a high place on the roll of the honored pioneers of the county. He was twice married, his first wife, Mary, having been a daughter of John Starr, who was a pioneer farmer of Stark county. Mrs. Bechtol died January 6, 1851, at the age of thirty-seven years, having become the mother of seven children, namely: George, who is deceased; John K., who is a resident of Bridgewater township; Rebecca, who is the wife of George Kent, of Norton, Kan.; Ezra E., who is the subject of this sketch; Mary, who is the wife of John W. Wisman, of Huntington, Ind.; Nathan, who is deceased; and Hannah, who makes her home in Bridgewater township. In January, 1852, Adam Bechtol wedded Miss Elizabeth A. Hight, daughter of Asa Hight, of Henry county, O., and of this union were born four children: Adam W., a resident of Topeka, Kan.; Isaac, of Bryan, Williams county, O.; Sarah J., wife of John Cole, of Bridgewater township; and Lincoln, a resident of Edon, this county. Mrs. Bechtol still survives her honored husband and makes her home with her son Lincoln. She is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also her husband, who served as steward, class leader and superintendent of the Sunday school, having been zealous in all good work and having lived a life worthy of emulation. In politics he was originally a Whig, but he united with the Republican party at the time of its organization and thereafter gave stanch support to its cause. During the Civil war he was assigned to and faithfully performed the duty of enrolling officer for the militia, having been appointed by the provost marshal. Ezra Evans Bechtol grew to manhood on the old homestead and received his educational discipline in the common schools of the locality. He was but twenty years of age at the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, and on the 30th day of August, 1862, he made loyal response to his country's call by enlisting in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer infantry, joining his regiment at Bolivar, Tenn. His command was a part of the Army of the Tennessee, and the history of his regiment is essentially the record of his military career. He took part in the engagements at Thomson's Hill, Jackson, Champion Hill and battle and siege of Vicksburg, Miss., as well as the engagement at Clinton, that state; Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Hood's second sortie, on July 22, 1864, known as the battle of Atlanta, in which engagement he was severely wounded, which permanently disabled him for further service with his command; and on April 10, 1865, he received an honorable discharge for disability. As above stated, at the second sortie of General Hood's forces, in front of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, Mr. Bechtol was shot through the left shoulder by a musket ball, and on account of disability occasioned by his wound, he was confined in a hospital for three months after receiving it, and then was granted a furlough of thirty days, which he passed at home, after which he reported at the hospital in Columbus, O., where he received his discharge, as above stated. Soon after his return to his home Mr. Bechtol entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, where he completed a four years' course, in the meanwhile doing very successful work as a teacher in the public schools, a vocation which he continued to follow for several years. In 1875 he received the Republican nomination for the office of county clerk of Williams county and was elected by a gratifying majority, serving three years. In 1881 he was again elected to the office, and at the expiration of his term, in 1885, he retired to his farm near Montpelier, where he remained a few years, and then took up his residence in Montpelier, where he has since been engaged in the insurance business, while he has been an incumbent of the office of justice of the peace since 1902; he also served several terms as township assessor of Superior township. He and his wife are prominent and zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee, and he is identified with the Masonic fraternity and with Hiram Louden Post, No. 155, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is the present chaplain. November 11, 1869, Mr. Bechtol married Miss Louanna Melissa Griffith, daughter of Joseph and Katherine (Burbick) Griffith, of Williams county, and they have one daughter, Florence, who is now the wife of Frank H. Stewart, formerly a merchant of Butler, Ind., and now a resident of Montpelier, O., where he is engaged in managing the elevator for the Montpelier Elevator Company. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have two sons, Walter and William.

GEORGE H. BECKER, one of the leading merchants and proprietor of the "Bee Hive" of Montpelier, Williams county, O., is a native of that state, having been born in Lexington, Richland county, March 28, 1860. He is the son of Frederick and Catherine (Hoffman) Becker, both natives of the Kingdom of Nassan, Germany, where the former was born in 1825 and the latter ten years later. Three weeks after their marriage, in 1853, they sailed for America, and after a voyage of three months' duration landed at New York City. Immediately after their arrival they proceeded to Lexington, where both had friends living. After a residence there of ten years they removed to DeKalb county, Ind., and located on a farm which they purchased. Here Frederick Becker erected a blacksmith shop and plied vigorously the trade that he had learned and worked at in his native country and in Richland county. In 1864, having been drafted into the army, he served for seven months in an Indiana regiment, when he was discharged by virtue of the close of the war. So poor was his health that he was unfit for active duty and was forced to spend a part of the time in a hospital at Nashville, Tenn. After the close of the war he returned to his home and resumed his farming and blacksmithing, working as much as his shattered state of health would permit. Although a Democrat in politics, he frequently voted independently, especially in local elections. In religious matters he, together with his wife, was a member of the Reform church. He died in 1895 and is survived by his widow, who resides at Waterloo, Ind. George H. Becker was reared on his home farm and received his education in the district schools and those of Corunna and Auburn, both in Indiana. In 1880 he quit the farm and entered the general store of F. G. Fried, of Corunna, serving in the capacity of clerk for six years. The next two and one-half years he was in the employ of H. D. Ward, of Kendallville, Ind. After quitting the establishment of Mr. Ward he clerked for eight years for the firm of J. Keller & Co., of the same city. In 1897 he removed to Montpelier, and on August 27, of that year, opened up the "Bee Hive" store in a shallow frame building standing on the site of his present place of business. Beginning in a small room only fifty feet deep, and with a limited capital, he has by perseverance and industry built up a very extensive and profitable business. While the present handsome structure was being erected, the business was carried on in the Martin building. Upon completion of the new building, in November, 1903, the stock of goods was so largely increased as to fill all the counter and shelving space in a room one hundred feet deep, with forty feet additional on the second floor. The "Bee Hive" is a department store, carrying dry goods, notions, glass, tin, and china ware, carpets, rugs, etc. In addition to this valuable business building he owns a fine residence. In 1903 he was elected a member of the Montpelier school board, of which body he is now clerk. He holds membership in the Montpelier Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Eastern Star. In religious matters he is actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, being a member both of the board of trustees and the board of stewards in that organization. Mr. Becker was wedded to Miss Delilah Broach, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Orr) Broach, residing near Kendallville. Two children have been born to this union, named Glenn D. and Jessie G.

WILLIAM BEHNE, the able and popular young editor and manager of the Bryan Democrat, at Bryan, was born in the city of Defiance, O., on the 9th of July, 1884, and is a son of C. W. Otto Behne and Anna (Kosanowski) Behne, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, of the high German stock, and they came to the United States in 1879. They now reside in the city of Defiance, the father being engaged as a traveling furniture salesman. They have four sons and two daughters, all of whom remain in Defiance except the subject of this review and his brother Henry, the latter being engaged in the jewelry business in Ardmore, Ind. Ter. William Behne was reared in his native city, where he secured his educational discipline in the public schools, leaving the high school in his junior year and entering the printing office of Papenhagen & Deindoerfer, of Defiance, where he gained a thorough knowledge of the business and rounded out his education under the favorable influence of a most effective and practical school of experience. He continued to be identified with the printing and newspaper business in Defiance until the spring of 1904, when he located in Bryan, taking a position as advertising man on the Bryan Democrat, which is one of the leading weekly papers of this section, and in March, 1905, there came a fitting recognition of his ability and excellent service, in his promotion to the office of editor and manager of the paper and business. His preferment was the more noteworthy from the fact that he was not yet twenty-one years of age when he assumed the duties of his responsible office. The Democrat is published on Thursday of each week by the Democrat Publishing Company, which is incorporated, the officers of the same being as follows: R. L. Starr, president; I. E. Gardner, secretary and treasurer; and Amos Oxenrider, vice-president. Mr. Behne is a stanch advocate of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, and takes an active interest in the party cause. He is a forceful and progressive young business man and is proving a most able executive in his present position.

HIRAM T. BETTS, one of the honored citizens of Stryker, where he is now living retired, has been prominently identified with industrial and business interests in Williams county, with whose history he has been familiar since the pioneer days, while through his own efforts he has attained a success worthy the name, and has so ordered his life as to retain at every stage therein the unqualified esteem and confidence of his fellow men. Mr. Betts was born near the city of Trenton, N. J., on the 12th of May, 1833, and is a son of John L. and Sarah Ann (Pryor) Betts, the former of whom was born at Digby, Nova Scotia, January 21, 1803, while the latter was born in Philadelphia, Pa., June 28, 1806, and their marriage was solemnized in New York city, April 25, 1826. As a boy John L. Betts was bound out to learn the saddler's trade but after serving a short time he ran away and went to New York city, where he was employed for a time by an express company, later by a book-publishing concern, then in a sugar refinery, and finally he became a reporter on the New York Tribune, under Horace Greeley, a fact indicating that he had become comparatively well eduated through his own efforts; and those who recall this honored pioneer of Williams county will remember him as a man of ripe judgment and broad and exact information, for he read much and with discrimination throughout his later life. In 1846 he came to Ohio and secured one hundred and twenty acres of land in what is now German township, Fulton county. He then returned to the East, and in 1848 he brought his family to this pioneer homestead. In 1855 he sold his farm, after which he passed about a year in the East. He then returned to Fulton county, purchasing a farm near Archbold, where he lived several years, while for the last thirty-five years of his life he resided with his son, Hiram T. Betts. It will be remembered that until 1850 a considerable portion of Fulton county was still a part of Williams county, the former not having been created until the year noted. Mr. Betts was a man of no little mechanical genius, and he patented a farm gate and other useful devices. His wife died in Springfield township, April 28, 1883, in the home of her son, Hiram T., with whom the father also passed his declining years, his death occurring March 22, 1889, at which time he was in his ninety-sixth year. This worthy couple became the parents of ten children, of whom eight reached years of maturity, but only two are now living—Hiram T. and Robert H., the latter having been a resident of Washington, D. C., for eighteen years and being now a resident of Archbold, Fulton county. Hiram T. Betts had limited educational advantages in his youth, owing to the exigencies of time and place, but in his active and useful career he has made good this handicap, being possessed of a large fund of practical knowledge and ever having maintained an intelligent grasp on the questions and issues of the hour. After leaving the parental home he found employment in the neighborhood, principally at farm work, and while thus engaged he assumed the dignities and responsibilities of a married man, in 1854. Soon afterward he and his bride located on a farm in section 12, Springfield township, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1891, when he took up his residence in Stryker, where he has since continued to make his home. For nearly a decade, while residing on his farm, Mr. Betts was a local representative of the Dayton Hedge Company and the Michigan Hedge Company. Upon locating in Stryker, Mr. Betts became one of the principal stockholders of the Stryker Manufacturing Company, of which he was president from 1892 until 1897. He has been the owner of several farms in Williams county and also of valuable property in Stryker. In politics he is a stanch advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and in Springfield township has served in various local offices. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for a half century, and during the greater portion of this time has served as class leader, while he has been a trustee in the church for many years. Mrs. Betts also is a devoted member of the same church. On the 22d of August, 1854, Mr. Betts was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Ann (Appleman) Thurston, widow of Samuel Thurston, of Bloomington, Pa., and a daughter of John Appleman, who came to Williams county in 1848 and settled in Springfield township. Mrs. Betts was born in Columbia county, Pa., November 5, 1816. For a number of years past Mrs. Betts has been a confirmed invalid, practically helpless in a physical way, and she has been cared for with the most assiduous devotion by her husband. They have two sons, Franklin T. and Clarence R. The former resides in Defiance, O., where he is engaged in the life insurance business. He married Miss Zylpha Coy and they have four children—Rufus, Bessie, Carey and John. Clarence Rufus Betts, the younger son, maintains his home in Stryker and is a representative of the firm of Bruns, Bowersox & Co., manufacturers, of Shawneetown, Ill. He married Miss Lillian Snyder and they have three daughters—Mabel, Grace and Florence. Mabel and Grace are now attending Delaware University at Delaware, O.

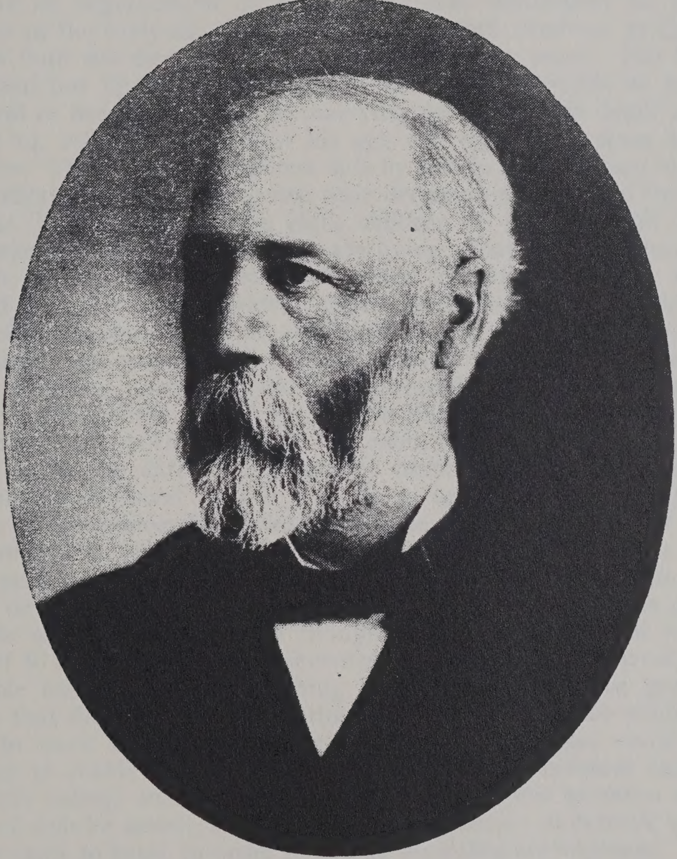
PORTER BETTS, a successful farmer of Center township, Williams county, O., is a native of that township, having been born there December 31, 1849. He is the son of Amos and Mary (Darling) Betts, the former born in New York, November 24, 1818, and the latter in Vermont, April 17, 1824. They were married after coming to Ohio. His grandfather was Luther Betts, whose wife died at the home of Amos Betts. His maternal grandparents, Thomas and Margaret (Pinnick) Darling, came to Ohio in an early day, locating in Williams county, where both are buried. Amos and Mary (Darling) Betts came to Williams county about 1845. In politics he was a stanch Republican, having served as assessor of both Center and Pulaski townships. His wife died March 27, 1874, and he February 15, 1886. Nine children were born to them, of whom six are yet living. Porter Betts grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a fair common school education. After farming for some years he resided at Montpelier, O., for about twenty years. In 1895 he removed to the farm of eighty acres which he now owns and here he follows general farming. While he has never been an aspirant for public office, he is nevertheless an ardent Republican. On June 20, 1869, he was wedded to Miss Belle Brannan, born in Williams county, September 4, 1851, the daughter of John and Jane (Custer) Brannan, both natives of Columbiana county, O. John Brannan was a farmer, a Democrat, served as county commissioner one term, and with his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church. He and wife both died in 1896, he on October 13 and she on November 9. He was the son of Hugh and Rebecca Brannan, the former a native of Ireland, who came to America and settled in Ohio in an early day. They first lived in Columbiana county and about 1845 removed to Williams county, where both died. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Betts were John Custer and wife, who were early settlers in Williams county, where both died. Porter Betts and wife have had five children. They are: Orvis, born August 18, 1870; Walter, born February 25, 1872; Clyde, born September 5, 1874; Agatha, born May 18, 1876, and Okly, born March 4, 1878.

ADAM BOISHER, a successful farmer and highly respected citizen of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born on the farm which he now owns on November 25, 1853. His parents, John and Catherine (Gearhart) Boisher, were both natives of Germany, the former born in Hessen and the latter in Darmstadt. John Boisher emigrated to America in 1838 and his wife's people in 1842, both families locating in Stark county, O. In 1849 John Boisher and wife removed to Williams county and settled on a farm of two hundred and ten acres in Florence township, one hundred and fifty-seven and one-half of which now belongs to their son, Adam. Later he added one hundred and five acres, making a total of three hundred and fifteen acres. He cleared all of the original purchase and equipped it with substantial buildings, such as go to make up a first-class farm. For three terms he served his community as township trustee. He was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, a Democrat in politics, and with his wife a member of the Reformed church. He died on February 19, 1892, and his widow on September 18, 1898. To these parents the following children were born: Adam, who died in infancy; Henry, a farmer of Florence township, and Adam, the subject of this sketch. Adam Boisher was reared on the homestead in Florence township and received his education by attending the district schools and Edgerton high school. On his farm of one hundred and eighty-two and one-half acres he follows quite successfully general farming and stock raising. He is a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the Reformed church. On August 11, 1878, he was wedded to Miss Jennie Sell, born in Bucyrus, Crawford county, O., on March 1, 1859, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Peterman) Sell, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. In 1875 Mr. Sell removed to Florence township, Williams county, and settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres. He died in Bryan, O., on August 31, 1904, his wife having died February 4, 1892. In politics he was an active Democrat. His wife was identified with the Presbyterian church. To these parents were born eight children, four sons and four daughters: To Adam Boisher and wife there have been born two children. They are: Nellie, who attended the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., for two years, a student of music under Mrs. Ingalls, formerly a teacher in the Chicago Conservatory of Music. Nellie is now the wife of C. E. Faulhaber, of the United States Weather Bureau, stationed at Davenport, Ia., and Minnie, attending the Angola Normal and now engaged in teaching music. Mrs. Boisher attended the Edgerton high school and was a successful teacher before her marriage.

ABRAHAM BORKHOLDER, a substantial farmer and respected citizen of Jefferson township, claims the old Keystone State as the place of his nativity, since he was born in Lancaster county, Pa., on the 19th of May, 1831. He is a son of Peter and Barbara (Lehman) Borkholder, both of whom were likewise born in that county, the former in 1802 and the latter in 1804. The Borkholder family genealogy is traced back to sturdy progenitors who came to America from Switzerland. Peter and Barbara Borkholder were married in 1826, and they continued to reside on the old home farm in Lancaster county, Pa., until 1843, in May of which year they set forth for Ohio, making the trip with teams and wagons, by which the household goods and some few farming implements were transported, while a few sheep were also brought, the trip consuming about three weeks. The family settled one and one-quarter miles west of the village of West Jefferson, in Superior township, Williams county, where he secured eighty acres of land, upon which a log house and a double log barn had been built, while about fifteen acres had been cleared. On this farm he continued to reside until his death, on the 19th of February, 1850, while his wife survived until 1873, both having been members of the Mennonite church, while in politics he was an old-line Whig. Of their nine children two died in infancy and one at the age of fifteen years. Annie, who became the wife of George E. Hoskinson, died in Jefferson township, February 9, 1885; Joseph is individually mentioned on another page of this work; Abraham is the immediate subject of this sketch; Martha, who was the wife of Ralph Scranton, of Bridgewater township, died February 29, 1904; Christian and Martin are deceased; Maria, wife of Oliver Coy, died in Jasper, Mich., February 20, 1904; Jacob resides in Kunkle, this county; and Peter died at the age of eighteen months. Abraham Borkholder received a common school education, and was about twelve years of age at the time of his parents' removal from Pennsylvania to Ohio. He continued to aid in the work of the home farm, assisting in the care of the family, until 1855, when the homestead farm was sold and he received his share therefrom. In the same year he purchased eighty acres of wild land in section 35, Jefferson township, erecting on the place a log cabin, twenty by twenty-four feet in dimensions, and also a log stable. His widowed mother, two of his sisters and two of his brothers lived with him until the time of his marriage, in 1864, and in the meantime he was vigorously prosecuting the arduous work of clearing his land of its heavy timber, though he passed one year in Jackson county, Mich., engaged in clearing land and getting out lumber. Ever since his marriage he has resided on his homestead, the fine development of which shows the energy and good judgment he has brought to bear in his efforts, and his farm is under a high state of cultivation, while he also has been very successful in the raising of high-grade live sotck. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, while his religious faith is that of the Mennonite church, his wife being a Dunkard. November 29, 1864, Mr. Borkholder was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Greek, who was born in Lancaster county, Pa., as were also her parents, Frederick and Martha (Brubaker) Greek, who came to Richland county, O., in 1842, removing thence to Hancock county, where they remained until 1854, when they took up their residence in Madison township, Williams county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father having here followed farming and cabinet making. To Mr. and Mrs. Borkholder have been born four children, concerning whom the following brief record is consistently entered: Ella, born September 19, 1865, is the wife of David Eberly, of Jefferson township; Frederick, born October 9, 1867, married Miss Sadie Walker, and he is a successful farmer of Jefferson township; Joseph, who was born February 4, 1873, married Miss Iva Talley, and is engaged in farming in Madison township; Fannie, who was born April 24, 1876, died on the 21st of December, 1882.

JOSEPH BORKHOLDER, of Jefferson township, is another of the sterling representatives of the agricultural industry in Williams county, and is a member of one of its well known pioneer families. He was born in Lancaster county, Pa., March 10, 1830, and is a son of Peter and Barbara (Lehman) Borkholder, both natives of that same county, where they were born in the years 1802 and 1804, respectively. Peter was a son of Joseph Borkholder, and the family originally came from Switzerland to America. Peter Borkholder was married in 1826, and thereafter he and his wife continued to reside on the old home farm in Pennsylvania until 1843, on the 1st of May of which year they set forth for Williams county, Ohio, while with them came the family of Isaac Hoffer, who had been residents of Wayne county, Ohio, Mr. Hoffer having been the father of the wife of the subject of this review. The trip was made with horses and wagons, and in addition to the household effects a number of sheep were transported to the new home in the wilds of Ohio, the trip being about three weeks in duration. Peter Borkholder settled in Superior township, Williams county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, of which about fifteen acres had been cleared, while the improvements consisted of a log house and a double log barn. The first year he put in five acres of wheat, and thereafter the work of clearing the land was carried forward by him and his sons. He died on this homestead, February 19, 1850, and his wife passed away in 1873. Both were consistent members of the Mennonite church, and in politics he was an old line Whig. Of their children is given the following brief record: Annie, who became the wife of George E. Hoskinson, of Jefferson township, died February 9, 1885; Joseph is the immediate subject of this sketch; Abraham is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; Martha, who died February 29, 1904, was the wife of Ralph Scranton, of Bridgewater township; Christian died in 1850; Martin died in 1869, having been a farmer of Jefferson township; Maria, who died February 20, 1904, was the wife of Oliver Coy, of Madison township; Jacob resides in Kunkle, this county; and Peter died at the age of eighteen months. Owing to the conditions and exigencies of time and place Joseph Borkholder received rather limited educational advantages in his youth, but he made the best use of the privileges of the little log school house, to which he made his way by a blazed trail through the woods, a distance of two and a half miles. Puncheon floors and slab benches characterized the school house, while in the winter the heat was supplied by the yawning fireplace, for which the teachers and the boys cut the fuel. At the age of twenty-five years Joseph Borkholder went to Hardin county, Iowa, in the autumn of 1855, making most of the trip on foot and entering a quarter section of government land. He remained in Iowa until June, 1858, when he returned to Williams county, Ohio. On the 22d of the same month he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Hoffer, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, being a daughter of Isaac and Susanna Hoffer, who came from Lebanon county, Pa., to that county in 1836, and in 1843 to Williams county. They settled on the farm where their son-in-law, Joseph Borkholder, now lives, in section 2, Jefferson township, where Mr. Hoffer died in 1880 and his wife in 1884. After his marriage Mr. Borkholder settled on the Hoffer place, where he has ever since made his home. In the early days this section was a practical wilderness, very few roads having been constructed, while the main thoroughfares were simply trails through the forest. The nearest postoffice to the home of Mr. Borkholder was Pulaski, seven miles distant, and there also were located the nearest mill and store. Wild game was to be had in plentiful supply, and was largely utilized in furnishing the larders of the sturdy pioneers. Mr. Borkholder assisted in the construction of the roads and gave effective aid in the forwarding of all public improvements and civic interests, having taken a loyal concern in township affairs, but never having aspired to office. He is a stanch Republican in his political proclivities. He has given special study to the science of veterinary surgery, and has been engaged in the practice of this profession since 1874, finding much demand for his services throughout his section, and is skilled in the treatment of all diseases of the domestic animals. Mr. and Mrs. Borkholder are prominent members of the Mennonite church of their township, the church and cemetery being located on their farm. The church was erected in 1860, and in its work Mr. and Mrs. Borkholder have been active and faithful, while no residents of the township are held in higher esteem. They have no children.

CHARLES A. BOWERSOX, of Bryan, is one of the distinguished members of the bar of Williams county, and is one of the influential citizens of this section of the state, with whose annals the family name has long been identified. Aside from his high professional prestige he is distinctively a man of affairs, and his impress upon the civic, political and industrial life of the community has been clear and incisive. As nearly as can be assured from the data available, the presumption is justified that the original American ancestor of the Bowersox family emigrated to the new world from Germany in the early Colonial era of our national history, while the primitive spelling of the name was Bauersauxe. Christian Bowersox resided near Baltimore, Maryland, and was for many years engaged in the boot and shoe business, having learned the shoemaking trade in his youth. He died in Maryland, and his widow, Mary Bowersox, came with her children to Williams county, Ohio, where she died about the year 1858. Both were members of the Lutheran church and they were folk of sterling attributes of character. They became the parents of three children, all now deceased, the youngest having been John Warner Bowersox, father of him whose name initiates this sketch. John W. Bowersox was born in Frederick county, Maryland, January 10, 1808, and was reared to maturity in that state, where he learned the shoemaker's trade. About 1828 he located in Adams county, Pennsylvania, where, at the age of twenty-two years, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Breckenridge, daughter of Thomas Breckenridge, the family being of Scotch descent and the original name of Stuart having been changed to Breckenridge by the ancestors who removed from Scotland to Ireland during the early wars between Scotland and England. Members of the family came to America in the Colonial days, and from them are descended the numerous representatives of the name in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and other sections of the Union, many having attained to national reputation. About 1831 John W. Bowersox came with his wife to Ohio, making the overland trip from Pennsylvania and taking up his abode in the little hamlet of North Industry, in Stark county, where he worked at his trade until 1838. About that time he entered claim to a tract of land in St. Joseph township, Williams county, and in October of the year mentioned he came hither with his family, consisting of his wife and two children, the journey being made in a wagon drawn by oxen. He erected his rude domicile of logs in the midst of the dense forest, and here he and his family encountered the varied experiences of the pioneer epoch, whose annals read like a romance in these latter days, though the roseate touch of fancy was less in evidence during the period itself, with its arduous toil, isolation and manifold vicissitudes. For fifty-one years John Warner Bowersox resided in this county, and at the time of his death he owned three hundred and forty acres of land, two hundred of which were cleared, representing many years of persistent toil and endeavor. The following incidental estimate is reproduced, being specially germane in the present connection: "John W. Bowersox held high standing as a citizen and took keen interest in the issues of his



CHARLES A. BOWERSOX

time, being an uncompromising foe to slavery. For many years he was known as an old-line Whig, and after the organization of the Republican party he transferred his allegiance to the same. In religious faith he was a Lutheran, and his home and barn were frequently used in the early days for the holding of meetings by preachers of all denominations. His wife was reared in the Presbyterian church, with which the Breckenridge family had been identified for generations, but as no organization of this church was established in Williams county in the early days, she joined the United Brethren in Christ, in which faith she died, in 1867, at the age of sixty years. Her husband survived her by more than twenty years, during which he remained faithful to her memory, never marrying again, and his death occurred April 14, 1889, at which time his age was eighty-one years and four months. Their remains now rest side by side in the cemetery at Edgerton, where also were laid to rest their deceased children and the mother of Mr. Bowersox." Of the eight children of John W. and Mary J. (Breckenridge) Bowersox three are living, Charles A., subject of this sketch, having been the sixth in order of birth, while he is associated with his maiden sister, Nancy Ellen, in the ownership of the fine old homestead place of one hundred and eighty-five acres, where his sister still maintains her home, having cared for her parents in their declining years with the most devoted filial solicitude and being held in affectionate regard by all who know her. Charles Alexander Bowersox was born in the old log cabin home of which mention has been made, the date of his nativity having been October 16, 1846. During his boyhood days it was his to lend his quota of aid in the work of the pioneer homestead, while he duly availed himself of such advantages as were afforded in the common schools of the locality and period, continuing to attend the same during the winter months until he had attained the age of sixteen years. That he made good use of his opportunities, limited though they were, is evident when we revert to the fact that when seventeen years of age he proved himself eligible for the work of teaching in schools of the same grade, and from that time forward he continued to teach during the winter terms and to work on the farm in the summer until he had saved enough money to enable him to realize his cherished and insistent ambition—to enter college and complete a course therein. His ambition was thus one of definite action, and during his vacations he undertook whatever labor came to hand, in order to defray his collegiate expenses. Among other avocations at this period in his career, he taught vocal music, both in and out of college, having marked talent in this art. In March, 1870, he was matriculated in Otterbein University, where he completed the classical course, being graduated June 10, 1874, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, while three years later the Master's degree was conferred upon him by his alma mater, and his grades were the highest in his student course of all made by students who had been graduated in that institution up to that time. The determination, self-reliance and singleness of purpose which animated him as a student and which prompted him so to direct his energies as to pay the expenses of his entire college course, gave indication of the man that was to be when the still more practical duties of life were assumed. Shortly after his graduation he became superintendent of the public schools of Edgerton, retaining this position two years. In February, 1875, he was appointed a member of the county board of school examiners, for a term of two years, and in the autumn of the same year he was elected probate judge of Williams county, of which office he was incumbent three years. Within this period he read law, showing his characteristic power of consecutive application and ready assimilation, and he was admitted to the bar of his native state in September, 1879. He forthwith entered into a professional partnership with Hon. Edward Foster, of Bryan, where they were associated in practice until the death of Mr. Foster, in 1883. Concerning his professional and business career the following epitome has been given: "In the summer of 1883 he was appointed, by Governor Charles Foster, to the position of judge of the common-pleas court for the second subdivision of the third judicial district of Ohio, to succeed Judge Owen, who had been transferred to the supreme bench. Judge Bowersox served one year, completing the unexpired term, but he then declined to become a candidate for election, preferring to return to his practice, which he has since continued with marked success. In 1878 Judge Bowersox purchased a one-third interest in the Bryan Press, which he conducted one year, doing all the editorial work, although at that time he was serving as probate judge. In 1880 he became a director in the Farmers' National Bank, of Bryan, one of the most solid and popular financial institutions of Northwestern Ohio, and after serving two years as vice-president he was elected to the presidency, of which chief executive office he has since remained in tenure. He is president of the Edon Banking Company, at Edon, Ohio; and also of the Edgerton State Bank, at Edgerton, Ohio, and the First National Bank of Montpelier. Nature gave the judge a good physique as well as an active and well poised brain, and he is of athletic and powerful build, standing six feet and four inches in height and weighing, proportionately, about two hundred and thirty pounds. Without this combination of *mens sana in corpore sano* he could scarcely have endured a tithe of the labor which his business and professional engagements have entailed. In addition to these, however, he has taken a prominent part in political and other affairs, and he has ever been a close student of the questions and issues of the day, as well as of the best professional and general literature. He has a large and select library, and has given special attention to music and literature, having deep appreciation of the refining and gracious elements which touch human life. His beautiful home, 'Elm Gables,' is a center of culture and of refined hospitality. In August, 1890, Judge Bowersox was chosen president of Otterbein University, his alma mater, but after two years of effective service he resigned, on account of the pressure of other duties. His ability as a public speaker is widely recognized, and his services in this capacity are in frequent requisition, in a political and general way, including insistent demands for addresses before graduating classes.

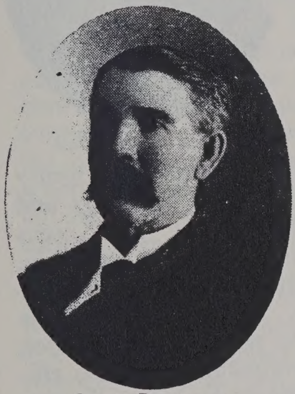
Chautauqua assemblies, etc. While in no sense a politician he has rendered efficient service in behalf of the Republican cause, and has been prominent in its councils in Ohio, having been several times a delegate to the state conventions, and in 1881 he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature, where he made an excellent record." Judge Bowersox is a director of the Bryan Free Library Association, is a director and vice-president of the Bryan Business Men's Association, and is president of the Mendelssohn Musical Society, of Bryan, one of the leading musical organizations of Northwestern Ohio. He is president of the Bruns-Bowersox Lumber Company, whose principal office is in Bryan. He is a director of the Cleveland & Illinois Mining Co., which owns and operates one of the largest fluorspar mines in the world, the same being located in Hardin county, Ill. He is also a director of the Mexican Sewer Pipe Co., having its plant in the city of Mexico. Judge and Mrs. Bowersox are prominent members of the United Brethren church, and he is a member of a national committee which has as its aim the bringing about of a union of the United Brethren, Protestant Methodist and Congregational churches. On the 10th of June, 1875, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Bowersox to Miss Laura A. Jarvis, daughter of Samual and Lydia Jarvis, of Westerville, Ohio. Mrs. Bowersox was graduated in Otterbein university, in June, 1875, and is a woman of gracious presence and distinctive culture, being prominent in the social life of the community and being an artist of much talent. Judge and Mrs. Bowersox have two children—Charles Ralph, born March 28, 1886, and Helen, born August 18, 1896. The son is secretary of the Bruns-Bowersox Lumber Company, is private secretary to his father and is a young man of marked business ability, while his father is placing in his hand practically all of his industrial business interests.

JOHN WESLEY BOWERSOX, a highly respected citizen of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born at North Industry, Stark county, four miles south of Canton. His father, mention of whom is made in the preceding sketch, had the honor of building the first house in the western part of St. Joseph township. On October 14, 1838, John W. came with his parents to St. Joseph township, Williams county, where he grew to manhood and where he received his common school education. In 1861 he removed to Florence township and located on a farm of eighty acres that his father had entered some years before. Here he has since resided and carried on in a small way the business of general farming and stock raising. On September 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company F of the Sixty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served one year. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having joined that organization in 1882. On June 9, 1860, he chose as his helpmeet along life's journey Miss Amelia Yeager, born in Portage county, O., September 27, 1837, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Duke) Yeager, both natives of Beaver county, Pa., who came to Ohio in 1840, locating in Florida, Henry county, where Mrs. Yeager died in 1843. After his wife's death John Yeager removed to Wolcottville, La Grange county, Ind., and died there in October, 1862. Of the fifteen children born to these parents fourteen grew to manhood and womanhood. Absalom Yeager, a brother of Mrs. Bowersox, served as a private in Company B of the Second United States regiment in the war with Mexico and an orderly sergeant in Company B of the One Hundredth Ohio volunteer infantry in the Civil war. He was a prisoner for seven months at Belle Isle and Libby prisons. After his exchange he returned to his command and was severely wounded in the knee. He was born in Beaver county, Pa., and died in Henry county, O., in 1898. To J. W. Bowersox and wife there have been born two children. John Elsworth, the elder, was born on the home farm on March 19, 1861, and received his education in the country schools. He now owns a farm of eighty acres and carries on an extensive poultry business in addition to general farming. In politics he is identified with the Republican party. On April 5, 1892, he was wedded to Miss Sarah Kurtz, born in Florence township and a member of the Lutheran church, by whom he has one son, Harvey Wesley Elsworth. Mary Emma Amelia, the younger child, was born on May 25, 1872. After completing her common school education she was married to Henry Kline, a native of Buffalo, N. Y., where he was born on October 10, 1861. His first wife was Mary Kurtz, a sister of the wife of Elsworth Bowersox. By her he had three children, named Henry, John and Alva. Roland Smith is the name of a child that Mr. and Mrs. Kline have taken to raise. John Yeager, the father of Mrs. Bowersox, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Mrs. Bowersox had two other brothers in the Civil war. Francis Yeager, who served in a Michigan regiment, was wounded and died in the hospital. Thomas Yeager, the other brother, was captain of Company E, Eighty-sixth Ohio volunteer infantry, and received an honorable discharge.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRACE, who is the popular and efficient clerk of the courts of Williams county, was born near Stryker, this county, on the 29th of April, 1861, and is a son of James L. and Permelia (Shamburg) Brace, the former of whom was born in Williams county, in 1834, being a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this section, while the latter was born in what is now Defiance county, in 1835, Defiance county at that time being a part of Williams county. The father was a farmer during the greater portion of his active career and was a man who commanded unqualified respect and esteem. Abraham L. Brace secured his education in the public schools of the village of Stryker and through well directed discipline, and in early manhood he engaged in teaching, to which vocation he gave his attention for about thirteen years, being successful in his efforts and gaining marked popularity, his pedagogic labors having been in the schools of Williams and Defiance counties and having covered twenty-two terms. On the 9th of July, 1877, when sixteen years of age, Mr. Brace, while engaged in youthful sport, met with a severe accident, necessitating the amputation of his left leg below the knee, and this infirmity led him to seek such vocations as were within his power to fill. In 1899 Mr. Brace received the Republican nomination for the office of clerk of the courts of his native county, and was elected by a majority of seventy-one votes. He gave such able service that he was recognized as the logical candidate for the office to succeed himself at the expiration of his first term, and he was re-elected, in 1902, for a second term of three years, his second election having been compassed by the gratifying majority of nine hundred and sixty-five votes. He had previously served as township clerk of Springfield township, and from 1889 to 1893 he was assistant postmaster at Stryker, where he maintained his home until his election to his present office, and then removed to Bryan. He is an active worker in the local ranks of the Republican party, is identified with the Knights of Pythias, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Universalist church. December 30, 1901, Mr. Brace was united in marriage to Miss Ella Bowdle, daughter of John Bowdle, of Evansport, Defiance county, and they have two children—Elsie May and Carlton Earl.

AARON BRANNAN was a man whose life was one of signal honor and usefulness, and he left an indelible impress upon the civic and industrial composition of Williams county, being a representative of one of its pioneer families and here rising to a position of distinctive prominence and influence. The Brannan family is of staunch Irish origin, and the original American progenitor was Hugh Brannan, who was born in county Donegal, Ireland, on the 1st of April, 1798. He was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until he had attained the age of twenty-two years, when he immigrated to America and took up his abode in Columbiana county, Ohio, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, which there engrossed his attention until 1846, when he came to Williams county, where he entered a tract of land in Superior township, the locality becoming known later as Brannan's Corners. There he continued to be engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred May 25, 1866. He was a man of strong mentality and sterling character and was held in unqualified esteem in the community. He was a Whig in politics and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Church of Christ. He married Miss Rebecca Burson, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1803, being a daughter of Joseph Burson, of Salineville, that county. They became the parents of five children, namely: Betsy Jane, who married Robert Scott; John, who married Jane Custard, and Frank, who married Susanna Ewan, are both deceased; Katherine, who married Nathan Ewan; and Aaron, who is the immediate subject of this memoir. Aaron Brannan was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 10th of February, 1835, and was thus eleven years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, in 1846. Here he was reared under the conditions of the pioneer days, securing a common school education, which he effectively rounded out through the mental discipline acquired by self effort and through active association with men and affairs during the course of a long and useful life. After leaving school he remained on the home farm with his father for a number of years and he then became associated with his brother Frank in the lumber business, operating a sawmill, located near the home farm, until within fifteen years of his death. While he was not always actively engaged in milling and farming he continued to retain his interests in these enterprises. In 1866 he engaged in the manufacture of hubs and spokes in Bryan, continuing the business until 1869, when he sold the same. He then returned to the farm on which he remained until 1880. In the latter year Mr. Brannan erected a palatial brick residence in Bryan, and this was his home during the remainder of his life, though during the decade from 1885 to 1895 he was associated with his son-in-law, Adelbert P. Chilson, in the hardware business at Butler, Ind., where he passed much of his time. In 1895 he retired from active business and he passed the remainder of his life in his home in Bryan, where he died on the 1st of February, 1898. He was an earnest and zealous member of the Church of Christ, as was also his wife, and he with others was instrumental in securing the erection of the Church of Christ in Bryan, in which he served as elder from that time until his death. In politics he gave an unwavering allegiance to the Republican party, ever taking an intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour, but never seeking official position of any order. May 24, 1856, Mr. Brannan was united in marriage to Miss Salina Jane Knepper, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Morgan) Knepper. Jacob Knepper was born in Fayette county, Pa., October 2, 1803, and was a son of William and Elizabeth Knepper, who emigrated from Germany to America in an early day and located in Pennsylvania, where they remained until 1816, when they came to Columbiana county, Ohio, being numbered among the early pioneers of that section. In 1833 Jacob Knepper married Mary Morgan, who was born October 13, 1807. She was a daughter of Jeremiah Morgan, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, being killed at Fort Meigs, his son John being also a participant in the same war. Jacob and Mary Knepper came to Williams county in 1852 and located in Superior township, where the latter died on the 28th of June 1855, while the former survived until August 11, 1879. Concerning the children of Aaron and Salina J. (Knepper) Brannan the following brief record is given, the loved mother having been born November 29, 1838, and having been summoned to the eternal life on the 22d of January, 1886, a sincere and devoted member of the Church of Christ: Fossie, born November 8, 1858, is the wife of Adelbert P. Chilson, and they occupy the beautiful old Brannan homestead in Bryan, Mr. Chilson having recently purchased the property. He is employed as traveling salesman for the Cleveland Co-operative Stove Company. Mr. Chilson was born in Georgetown, Defiance county, February 15, 1855, being a representative of one of the well known pioneer families of this section of the Buckeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Chilson have one son, Earl, born November 6, 1896. Ora Roe Brannan, born January 7, 1862, died

February 3d of the following year. Emmett, born May 17, 1864, died on the 20th of the following July. Prilla, born October 31, 1865, resides with her sister, Mrs. Chilson, in the city of Bryan, and is the owner of the old homestead farm which was pre-empted by her grandfather, Hugh Brannan. Katherine, born June 8, 1872, is the wife of Arthur McCormack, of Cleveland, in which city she took up her residence in 1895. For five years she was engaged as a contralto singer in St. Paul's Episcopal church and at present with the Euclid Avenue Church of Christ. Lulu, born April 27, 1874, resides in Cleveland and is a solicitor for the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, having gained a high reputation in her chosen vocation.


JAMES BRANNAN.

JAMES BRANNAN, former county commissioner of Williams county, and one of its representative farmers, is the owner of nearly three hundred acres of fine land in Superior township. He has found no reason to regret his association with the great basic industry of agriculture, through which he has gained success and found enjoyment and happiness. He was born in Columbiana county, this state, on the 11th of May, 1847, and the earliest genealogical data available indicate that his grandfather, Frank Brannan, was born and reared in Ireland, while the first definite information concerning his career in America is that of his being numbered among the pioneers of Columbiana county, O., where he was successfully engaged in farming. He married Margaret Martin, and they became the parents of three children: John W., father of the subject of this sketch; Martin, deceased, and Francis, who is a resident of Central City, Neb. Frank Brannan passed the closing years of his life in Columbiana county, Ohio. After his death Mrs. Brannan, in 1847, came to Williams county with her three sons, where she died. Both she and her husband were communicants of the Presbyterian church. John W. Brannan was born and reared in Columbiana county, and his vocation throughout life was that of farming. In 1847 he came to Williams county and located in Superior township, where he became the owner of a farm, upon which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred October 12, 1859. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife also was a member, and in politics was a stanch Democrat, having held the offices of justice of the peace, trustee and assessor in Superior township, where he was held in high regard by all who knew him. His wife, Margaret, who died in 1896, was a daughter of John McQuilkin, of Columbiana county, and of their seven children it may be recorded that Frank L.

is a resident of Denver, Colo.; James is the subject of this sketch; Nancy is the wife of James McCarns; and Martin R., John H., William M., and Melvin C. are all prosperous farmers of Williams county. James Brannan passed his boyhood on the home farm and continued to attend the schools of Superior township a portion of each year until he had attained his majority. He then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed as a vocation for four years, after which he engaged in farming in Superior township, on a farm one mile north of his present homestead. He then purchased his present farm, where he has since been actively engaged in general farming, stock-raising and shipping stock, with the exception of six years, during which he served as county commissioner. He owns two hundred and twenty acres in the home farm, which is improved, with good buildings and equipped with convenient facilities throughout. He also owns another farm of sixty-six acres, located in Jefferson township. The political views of Mr. Brannan are indicated in the stanch allegiance which he accords the Democratic party, and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder. In 1896, Mr. Brannan was elected county commissioner, and the efficiency of his service was duly appreciated, as shown by his re-election at the expiration of his first term of three years, so that he served six consecutive years. December 24, 1868, Mr. Brannan was married to Miss Rosina A. Betts, daughter of Amos and Mary (Darling) Betts, of Center township. Mr. and Mrs. Brannan are the parents of seven children, all of whom were born and reared in Williams county; Charley W. married Ada Mick, and they have four children, Zoe, Verle, Levi, and Beulah; Harvey J. married Della Patton, and they have six children—Myrtle, Bessie, Ross, Paul, Harvey and Rosina A.; Mary is the wife of Orlando E. Wolf, and their children are Fern and Lulu; Lulu, the next of Mr. Brannan's children, is the wife of Samuel Cox; James married Harriet Jacobs and they have two children—Gladys and Hazel; Solomon R. married Maud Stoy, and they have one son, Estale, and Klare married Bertha Teets. Mr. and Mrs. Brannan are enjoying the fruits of their industrious past, and stand high in the estimation of the community. For some years Mrs. Brannan has suffered from poor health, but has borne her suffering with a true Christian fortitude.

ROSINA A. BRANNAN.

WILLIAM A. BRATTON, SR., a prominent and successful live stock dealer of Edgerton, Williams county, O., is of Irish descent, his ancestors having emigrated to America in an early day. He is the son of James Bratton, a native of Pennsylvania, who was born near

Harrisburg in Mifflin county, and served with distinction in the War of 1812. In 1847 he removed to Ohio and located on a farm in Florence township, Williams county, where he spent the remainder of his days. William A. Bratton, Sr., was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools of his home county. When twenty-two years old he removed to St. Joseph township and bought a farm there, on which his son, William A. Bratton, Jr., now resides. His standing in the community was of such a high order that when still quite a young man he was elected township trustee and served with marked ability for several terms. For ten years he was township assessor, filling that responsible position with credit to himself and with profit to the township. He was a member of the board of county commissioners when the new court house, costing one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars was erected. The building of this magnificent structure for some time required all of his attention, for he and the other members on the board were determined to see that it was built honestly and within the appropriation. So well was this task performed that the tax payers were well pleased and highly commended the commissioners. In 1892 he moved from the farm to Edgerton, where he erected a fine home. His time is now wholly taken up with buying and selling live stock. In politics he has always been a stanch Democrat, serving frequently on the county central committee and as delegate to county and district conventions. No other man in the community takes a deeper interest in Masonry than does Mr. Bratton. He was joined in the bonds of wedlock to Miss Catherine E. Casler, the daughter of Christ Casler, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed to Ohio, first locating in Stark county and afterwards in St. Joseph township. The subject of this sketch can boast that he not only helped to clear his father's farm, but also that of his father-in-law. Mr. and Mrs. Bratton are the parents of the following children: Amanda, now Mrs. James Fleightner; William A., Jr., who married Miss Florence Uffer, of Defiance county; Maggie, the wife of John Wines, and Adella May, of Toledo. The following are the grandchildren of William Bratton, Sr., and wife; Maude, Archibald and Pearl, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Fleightner; Earl, Clyde and Georgia May, the children of William A. Bratton, Jr., and wife; James E. and Fern, the children of John Wines and wife. As an active, useful and enterprising citizen, William A. Bratton, Sr., is respected and highly honored by his fellow citizens.

SARDES ELMER BRENNER, one of the most progressive farmers of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born December 7, 1862. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Ridenger) Brenner, the former a native of Wittenberg, Germany, and the latter of Hancock county, O. His grandfather, John George Brenner, emigrated to the United States in 1830, coming directly to Hancock county, from which he removed to Williams county in 1863, where both he and wife died. His maternal grandfather was a pioneer of Hancock county and died there. Jacob Brenner was born on August 23, 1829, and came to America the following year with his parents. He was reared and educated in Hancock county. In 1863 he removed to Bryan, O., and six months later settled on a farm two miles west of that town. Here he owned three hundred and five acres at the time of his death in 1904. In politics he was identified with the Republican party. He and his first wife were the parents of five children, of whom three are living. His first wife having died in 1869, he married Miss Mary Noffsinger of Defiance county and by her had three children, all living. Sardes Elmer Brenner was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools of his home county and the Edgerton high school. In 1887 he bought seventy acres of land on which he has ever since resided. In politics he is a Republican, having served on the county central committee three years and on the school board for ten consecutive years. On September 7, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Cover, born at Sherwood, Definance county, July 7, 1865, the daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Spurrier) Cover, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Samuel Cover was one of the pioneers of Defiance county and in 1865 removed to St. Joseph township, Williams county, and settled on the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. He married Rachel Spurrier February 28, 1854, and died July 1, 1898, his wife having died nine years before. They were the parents of six children, two of whom are living. The father of Samuel Cover was also named Samuel, who was born September 6, 1789, and on January 19, 1813, married Elizabeth Cent, born March 6, 1795. He died in Crawford county, O. John Spurrier, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Brenner, was wedded to Miss Mary Runion and died in Defiance county. His widow afterwards married Jonathan Pefley, who died in Defiance county. Mrs. Pefley died at the venerable age of three score and seven. To Sardes Elmer Brenner and wife three children have been born. They are: Otho Oscar, born February 21, 1886, educated in the public schools and now a teacher in Center township; Zoa Elnora, born March 2, 1888, and now a student of Edon high school; Byron Orin, born September 23, 1890, and a student of Edon high school. The last two both passed the Boxwell examination, the former making the highest grade made in Williams county that year (1903).

Mrs. Brenner's great-great-great-great-grandfather, Cent, came over in the Mayflower in 1620.

GEORGE W. BRINKMAN, one of the native sons of Williams county, who is here successfully engaged in farming and stock-growing, in Superior township, is a representative of the third generation of his family in the county and is a son of that honored pioneer citizen of Montpelier, Henry Brinkman, who is consistently made the subject of individual mention in the succeeding sketch of this compilation, so that it is not demanded that the family history be again entered in the present connection. George W. Brinkman was born in Montpelier, this county, on the 27th of December, 1862, and was reared to the sturdy discipline of the homestead farm, in Superior township, while he was afforded good educational advantages, continuing to attend the public schools until he had attained the age of twenty years. After leaving school he had charge of his father's farm one year and then instituted his independent career in the same vocation, to which he has ever since given his attention, with the exception of two years, during which he was employed at the county infirmary. His farm comprises eighty acres, in section two, Superior township, is well improved and under most effective cultivation, while he is recognized as one of the progressive and up-to-date agriculturists and loyal citizens of his native county. In politics he accords an unswerving allegiance to the Republican party, and he served one year as supervisor. January 1, 1888, Mr. Brinkman married Miss Ida Pickle. Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman are the parents of six children, namely: Myrtle, Gay, Harry (deceased), Leah, Gladys (deceased), and Gertrude.

HENRY BRINKMAN, who is now living retired in the attractive little city of Montpelier, was a boy of about eleven years at the time of his parents' taking up their abode in Williams county, where he has maintained his home for more than sixty years, within which time he has witnessed the development of this section from the pioneer wilds to its present status as one of the most advanced agricultural and general industrial sections of the old Buckeye state. He has personally contributed in no small measure to this development, having been long identified with agricultural pursuits and having ever stood as a loyal and public-spirited citizen, even as he is now numbered among the honored pioneers of the county, the city of his residence being located on the tract of land which his father secured from the government many years ago. Mr. Brinkman claims the old Keystone state of the Union as the place of his nativity, having been born in Lancaster county, Pa., on the 12th of January, 1833, and being a son of George and Catherine (Freidinger) Brinkman, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, while their marriage was solemnized in Pennsylvania, the father having come to America when twenty-two years of age and having taken up his residence in Lancaster county, that state, where he followed farming until 1835, and then came to Ohio and located in Seneca county, where he maintained his home until 1844, when came to Williams county and took up a tract of wild land where the city of Montpelier is now located, Ohio at that time having practically no railroads and retaining many evidences of the frontier conditions. George Brinkman made his initial trip from Seneca county to Williams county on foot. He reclaimed much of his original farm to cultivation and continued to be actively engaged in general farming there for a number of years, after which he disposed of his farm and retired from active labor, taking up his residence in Bridgewater township. The inactive life soon palled upon him, however, and in that township he resumed farming operations, in which he continued until his removal to Montpelier, about 1877, and in this city his death occurred, in 1879, while his devoted wife passed away in 1881, both having been sincere and consistent members of the German Lutheran church, and he was a Democrat in his political proclivities, having served several terms as supervisor and having held the unqualified esteem of all who knew him. George and Catherine Elizabeth Brinkman became the parents of five children, namely: Henry, Margaret, deceased, Mary, William, deceased, and George, deceased. Mary married William Willguss, a prosperous farmer of Bridgewater township. As before stated, Henry Brinkman was about eleven years old at the time of the family removal to Williams county, so that he had secured his rudimentary education in Seneca county, supplementing this by attending the schools in a log cabin in Montpelier. He has never sought or desired other vocation than that involved in the cultivation of the soil, and from small beginnings he advanced to a position of independence, working indefatigably and consecutively and becoming the owner of one of the fine farm properties of the county, where his course has been such that he has never lacked the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem. He still owns his homestead place of forty acres, besides several other farms, aggregating all told about 500 acres. His farms are about equally divided between Superior and Bridgewater townships. Since 1903 he has maintained his home in Montpelier, where he is enjoying the fruits of his former years of earnest and well directed endeavor. He is proud of the fact that his accumulations of property are due to his own perseverance and industry. He is a stanch supporter of the principles and policies of the Republican party, and filled the office of supervisor several times, while he has also served in other minor positions of trust. January 1, 1861, Mr. Brinkman was married to Miss Sophronia Beacox, who was born on December 29, 1838, near Canton, Stark county, O. She is the daughter of George and Laura (Seaton) Beacox, the former a native of England and the latter of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman were born seven children, viz.: Ada V., who married William J. Armstrong, and they now reside in British Columbia, and have four children, Harry, Arthur, William and Florence; George W., who resides near Montpelier and who married Ida Pickle, and they have four children living, viz.: Myrtle, Gay, Leah and Gertrude; Herbert, who is a resident of the State of Washington, married Clara Morgan and they have two children; Frank, who resides near Montpelier, married Sophia Beard, and they have two children, Howard and Vera; John J., who resides in California; Leon, who was accidentally killed while driving across the St. Joseph river bridge when it collapsed; and Mabel, who married John Barnhart and resides near Montpelier.

ANDREW THOMAS BROWN (deceased), who was a director and general manager of the Oak Manufacturing Company of Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in Centre township in 1858. He was the son of Nicholas and Sarah (McMannis) Brown, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Nicholas Brown was born in Fayette county, Pa., August 11, 1821. He was married in Crawford county, O., on January 23, 1844, where his wife was born December 29, 1825. In 1846 he removed to this county, where he became a prominent and very successful farmer and accumulated large property interests, consisting of several valuable and highly productive farms. For a number of years he was trustee of Centre township, showing that he was interested in public affairs. He died in 1898, highly esteemed by all who knew him. Andrew Thomas Brown grew to manhood on his father's farm and received a fair elementary education in the public schools of his native county. In 1892 he embarked in the agricultural implement business in Edgerton, and after conducting it successfully for one year sold out to Woodward & Harris. From 1896 to 1900 he was vice-president and general manager of the Edgerton Basket Manufacturing Company. December 10, 1902, Mr. Brown was elected general manager of the Oak Manufacturing Company, a corporation which he helped to organize and of which he was also a director. One hundred and thirty-five men are regularly employed by this company. The basket department makes no less than one hundred and twenty-two different styles of that useful article. Among the other products of this establishment may be mentioned the following: handles, insulator pins, brackets, ironing boards, clothes racks and hardwood lumber. These goods are shipped to all parts of the country. Eighty thousand dollars' worth of goods were sold in 1904. The facilities of this company for manufacturing purposes are second to none. The buildings are new and the machinery of the latest and most approved patterns. The floor space amounts to thirty thousand square feet, with twelve thousand square feet additional for storage purposes. A. T. Brown married Miss Martha Spangler, the daughter of Jacob and Eliza Spangler, who were pioneer settlers of Centre township, having come from Stark county, O., in an early day. Jacob Spangler is a successful farmer and an exemplary citizen. Mr. Brown was corporation treasurer of Edgerton for eight years, having been elected the last time in 1902. He at the time of his death was also serving as trustee of the Edgerton cemetery, having been elected first eight years ago. On June 15, 1905, while Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown were walking on the Lake Shore Railroad tracks near Edgerton they were both instantly killed by the Twentieth Century Limited. They had alighted from their automobile and started to walk to the Edgerton coal docks, which Mr. Brown desired to inspect. They left two children, Devillah and Elmer D. A. T. Brown at the time of his death was corporation treasurer, treasurer of the local Knights of Pythias lodge, of which he was a member, and treasurer of the board of cemetery trustees. He was one of the best liked men in Edgerton and his friends were legion. His interment was under the auspices of the local lodges of Knights of Pythias, Rathbone Sisters and Maccabees, assisted by visiting lodges from Butler, Edon, Bryan, Hicksville and Blakeslee.

GRANVILLE G. BROWN, one of the substantial farmers and most popular citizens of Madison township, where he has served as road supervisor for fully a score of years, besides having held other offices of public trust, has developed one of the valuable farms of this section of the country and is a leading representative of agricultural interests, being at the present time vice-president of the Williams County Agricultural Society. Mr. Brown was born in Fulton county, O., September 18, 1844, and is a son of Daniel and Emily (Atwood) Brown, the former of whom was born in Vermont, of Colonial ancestry, while the latter was born in Maryland. Daniel Brown had the sturdy characteristics of the New England type, was self-educated and in no uncertain way was the architect of his own fortunes. He came to Fulton county, O., in an early day and there purchased a tract of heavily timbered land, which he reclaimed to cultivation. He finally sold the property and established himself in the general merchandise business at Burlington, Fulton county, O., where he remained until 1856, when he came to Williams county, becoming one of the substantial farmers of Madison township. Here he continued to reside until 1884, when he went to Kansas, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1888, at a venerable age. He was originally a Whig and later a Republican in politics, and for a time he served as postmaster at Deer Lick, this county. His first wife died in Fulton county, O., in 1847, and his second wife, whose maiden name was Taylor, died about 1878, after which he married Sarah Horton, who is now deceased. Of the nine children of the first marriage only three are living. Granville G. Brown secured his early education in the common schools of Burlington, Fulton county, and Madison township, Williams county, and continued to be associated with his father in the operation of the home farm until he had attained the age of eighteen years, when he initiated his independent career. During the Civil war he was in the employ of the government in the capacity of carpenter, enlisting in his home county and continuing to be thus engaged until the close of the war. In 1865 he effected the purchase of a part of his present farm, to which he has added, until it now comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and the appearance of the place to-day, with its well tilled fields, substantial modern buildings and all other evidences of thrift and prosperity, is very different from what it was when he secured the property, for it was then covered with the native timber and had practically no improvements; so that the evidences of his effective labors are patent to all, while he has so lived as to merit and receive the unqualified esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens. In politics Mr. Brown is a stanch Republican and he has taken a loyal interest in public affairs, particularly those of a more local nature. He has served as township trustee and assessor, as a member of the school board about twenty years, and as road supervisor for about the same length of time, and has also held the office of jury commissioner. In his youth he served under his father as assistant postmaster at Deer Lick, a postoffice now abandoned under the free rural delivery service. He has long been a member of the board of directors of the Williams County Agricultural Society, of which he is now vice-president. He and his wife are prominent members of the Church of God, belonging to the organization in their township, and he served as superintendent of the Sunday school about fifteen years. In 1866 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Brown to Miss Elizabeth Wallace, who was born in Richland county, O., May 3, 1847, being a daughter of Noah and Sophia (Bowser) Wallace, the former of whom was born in Delaware, in 1813, and the latter in Maryland, in 1817, while they passed the closing years of their lives in Madison township, Williams county, whither they came in 1860, Mr. Wallace having been a substantial farmer of this section. Both he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church, and in politics he was a Republican. Of their eleven children five are living. The following is a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Brown: Charles A., a graduate of Bennett Medical College and of the medical department of the Northwestern University, in Chicago, Ill., is engaged in the practice of his profession at Rossville, Ill.; Andrew J. is superintendent of the public schools of Pioneer, Williams county; George A. divides his time between teaching and farming; John B. is a graduate of the Illinois Medical College, in Chicago, and is now engaged in practice at Lawrence, Ill.; Herman I. is a successful teacher in the public schools of Ohio; Leonard G. is a graduate of the dental school of Northwestern University, in Chicago, is married to Zella Lacer and is now practicing in Chicago; Clara May is a popular teacher; and Wesley O. and Ernest L. remain at the parental home, all of the children having received good educational advantages and profited duly from the same.

JOHN A. BROWN, a prominent farmer of Centre township, Williams county, O., was born on the old homestead on July 6, 1850. He is the son of Nicholas and Sarah (McMannis) Brown, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. John A. Brown was reared on his father's farm and educated in the common schools of the country. Farm life was so agreeable to him while growing to manhood that he made it his avocation for life. In addition to general farming he conducted a threshing machine for some years, doing quite an extensive business in that line. For seven years he has been engaged with D. P. Nihart in shipping live stock and has succeeded in establishing an extensive business, amounting some months to $25,000. He owns the farm of eighty acres on which he lives and that of one hundred acres on which his son, Andrew Jay Brown, resides. As an extensive dealer in road horses and a breeder of Chesterwhite hogs Mr. Brown is quite well known throughout the country. In this business he has met with unusual success, as is clearly demonstrated by the property he has accumulated. Being an excellent judge of horse flesh and strictly honorable in all of his dealings, he enjoys a prosperous business and an enviable reputation among his fellow citizens. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. Some years ago he was a member of the National Grange and for the past eighteen years he has served as a justice of the peace. On April 30, 1871, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Jane Stockman, born in Williams county on May 20, 1849, the daughter of Ephraim and America (Davison) Stockman, both natives of Crawford county, O., who came with their parents to Williams county in an early day, and married there. Ephraim Stockman is a son of George and Rachel (Tittle) Stockman, pioneers of Williams county, where both are buried. The parents of Mrs. Ephraim Stockman were also pioneers of Williams county, where they died at a ripe old age. John A. Brown is a member of the Methodist church and his wife is a member of the Dunkard church. They are the parents of two children. Clara E., the first born, was born in Williams county on August 30, 1872, and educated in the common schools. She is the wife of William Kreiger, a son of Jacob Kreiger, a sketch of whose life will be found elsewhere in this work. They have three daughters, named Grace, Ermah Ruth and Jennie Mildred. Andrew J., the younger, was born on December 28, 1874, educated in the public schools of the county and in the Fayette, O., high school. He is a farmer by occupation and a Democrat in politics, serving as township clerk for two years. His wife was Miss Grace Snyder, of Defiance, O. They are the parents of two daughters, named Vera and Daisy.

SAMUEL W. BUMPUS merits consideration in this compilation by reason of being one of the representative farmers and sterling citizens of Pulaski township, where he has a finely improved and well equipped farm, devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of a good grade of live stock. He was born in Sandusky county, O., on the 17th of September, 1844, and is a son of Simeon and Matilda (Grover) Bumpus, the former of whom was born in Cattaraugus county, N. Y., and the latter in Vermont, whence her parents removed to the state of New York when she was a child of three years. The parents were reared and educated in the old Empire state, where their marriage was solemnized. The father was a wagonmaker by trade, and later operated a grist-mill and also a saw-mill, having been a man of much initiative power and business acumen. They came to Ohio in 1832, making the trip on Lake Erie to Toledo and thence proceeding to Ottawa county, where Mr. Bumpus operated a saw-mill and grist-mill, while later he was for several years a resident of Sandusky county. In 1862 he removed with his family to Williams county, locating in Springfield township, and the latter years of his life were thus devoted to agricultural pursuits. He died March 2, 1893, and his widow was summoned into eternal rest April 5, 1903. Both were consistent members of the United Brethren church, exemplifying their Christian faith in their daily lives, and in politics he was a stanch supporter of the Democracy. Mr. Bumpus had been twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Matoon, died in New York state, leaving one son, Henry E., who is now a resident of the state of Iowa. Brief data concerning the children of the second marriage are here given: James I., who located in

Williams county in 1864, was a farmer by vocation and served in the Civil war as a member of Company I, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He died in this county; Philinda became the wife of Erastus Howard and died in Grand Traverse county, Mich.; Mary Ann, widow of Asa Hutchinson, resides in Chicago Junction, O.; George A., who was a member of the One Hundred and Fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Rebellion, died in Edon, O.; Matilda, who became the wife of Logan D. Mizner, died in Ottawa county; Samuel W. is he to whom this sketch is dedicated; Clara is the widow of Charles Strait and resides in Bryan; William S., a farmer and carpenter, resides in Ottawa county. Samuel W. Bumpus had limited educational advantages and early became inured to the sturdy labors of the farm, as well as other incidental avocations, remaining associated with his father and living at the parental home until 1868, in which year he was married. He then rented a farm, in Pulaski township, devoting himself to its operation for two years and then effecting the purchase of his present farm, in 1870, the same comprising forty acres of excellent land, in section 24, Pulaski township. The land was still covered with the native timber and was very rough, but he has developed the same into one of the valuable farms of this township, having the entire area under cultivation, while the permanent improvements are of substantial order. In addition to his farming operations Mr. Bumpus has devoted considerable attention to work at the carpenter trade, being a skilled artisan in this line. He is a supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and he has served for the past six years as school director. Reverting to his genealogy, it may be said that his grandfather and great-grandfather in both the paternal and maternal lines were valiant soldiers in the Continental ranks during the war of the Revolution. In 1868 Mr. Bumpus was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Athy, who was born and reared in Pulaski township, being a daughter of Elijah Athy, one of the honored pioneers of Williams county. In conclusion is given a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Bumpus: George Alonzo is engaged in the hardware business in Ottawa county, O.; Nathan M., a bridge-builder by vocation, still resides on the old homestead when not called elsewhere by the demands of his business, he married Miss Anna Reusch and they have one daughter, Alda May; Archibald, who is an engineer, residing in the city of Toledo, married Miss Kate Marsh and they have two children, Dale and Goldie; Annie is the wife of Albert Bostater, of Huron, O., and they have two children, Bertha and Hazel; Mertie and Millie were twins, the former being deceased and the latter being the wife of Frederick McConeghy, and they reside in Springfield township, they have two sons, Nathan and Williard; Bertha is the wife of Arthur Rhinemiller, of Huron, O., and they have two children, John and Alda; and Ida May and Emma G. remain at the parental home.

EMERY BUNCE, a well-to-do and prominent farmer of Northwest township, is a native of Florence township, Williams county, where he was born on April 27, 1863. His paternal grandparents were Jacob and Elizabeth Bunce, the former of whom died in Crawford county, O. The maternal grandfather of Emery Bunce was John Gloar, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in an early day and located in Williams county in 1858. Here he spent the rest of his days. Emery Bunce is the son of James and Elizabeth (Gloar) Bunce, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. They came to Williams county in 1860 and settled on a farm of sixty-three acres in Florence township. Educated in the common schools and reared on a farm, James Bunce chose farming as his lifework. In politics he was a Republican, having served as constable, and with his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in 1892, his wife having died the previous year. All of the eight children born to these parents are still living. Emery Bunce grew to manhood on a farm and received his education in the common schools of the home county. He is a farmer by occupation and owns a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres. Stock raising occupies a large part of his time. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party. On April 5, 1888, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Dora Brunk, a daughter of Jacob Brunk, a pioneer of Williams county, where he cleared a farm of ninety-five acres of land. By his first wife Mr. Bunce had the following children born to him: Ella, Wesley, James Russell, deceased, and George. His wife died December 26, 1894. On March 14, 1896, he was wedded to Ella (Powers) Skinner, a daughter of Volney Powers, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Martha Jane and Elwood.

JACOB BUNCE, a successful farmer and highly respected citizen of Northwest township, is a native of Crawford county, O., where he was born on February 12, 1849. His education was the best afforded by the common schools of Florence township, Williams county, O. He was only eleven years old when he came to Florence township. He now owns a farm of fifty acres in Northwest township. By dint of hard work and close application to business, he has succeeded in his efforts to secure a comfortable home. His land has been brought to a high state of cultivation and is equipped with all the necessary buildings that go to make up a first-class farm. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party, having held the offices of school director and supervisor. In politics and private life he has been uniformly successful. Beginning without any capital other than willing hands and a desire to own a comfortable home, he has fully realized his fondest expectations. The fact that he enjoys the respect of his fellow men affords him no little pleasure. He has demonstrated what a poor boy can accomplish, provided he is willing to work and is clean in his habits. On October 31, 1877, he was wedded to Miss Mary E. Joice, born May 5, 1843, the daughter of Henry Joice, mentioned elsewhere in this work. To this marriage there have been born two children. They are: Adah, born May 15, 1879, and educated in the common schools, the wife of Stephen Powers (the son of Volney Powers, mentioned elsewhere in this work), and the mother of two interesting children, Wynn and Wier; and Charlie Roy, born May 2, 1881, educated in the common schools, at home on the farm.

IRVIN L. BURKE, cashier of the Edgerton State Bank Company, of Edgerton, Williams county, O., is a native of Florence township, Williams county, where he was born in 1865. He is the son of Jonathan and Phoebe (Bratton) Burke, both natives of Ohio. Jonathan Burke has been a resident of Florence township, Williams county, since 1851, and is one of the foremost and most progressive farmers in that part of the county. His prominence in public affairs is evidenced by the fact that he served his county for six years in the responsible capacity of commissioner and the township as justice of the peace for forty years. He is a devout member of the Church of Christ, having been a consistent member for over thirty-five years. His beloved wife, the mother of Irvin L. Burke, died March 20, 1869. Irvin L. Burke was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools of his native county. In 1886 he began his successful career at Edon, Williams county, by engaging in the drug business. In 1897 he disposed of his prosperous establishment at Edon to embark in the banking business, for which he was eminently fitted as the sequel proves. He was first connected with the Edon Banking company and served that corporation faithfully for four years. In 1901 he was identified with the First National bank and the Union Trust Company of Bryan, O., and remained there for two years, after which he organized the Edgerton State Bank Company of Edgerton, O., and was elected its cashier. The other officers of the bank at the present time are Judge Charles A. Bowersox of Bryan, as president, and Henry Dietsch vice-president, and the following named gentlemen are the board of directors: Irvin L. Burke, H. L. Poole, Charles A. Dietsch, Charles A. Bowersox and Henry Dietsch. Mr. Burke is a man of pleasing address and genial disposition and possesses the happy faculty of winning friends and retaining them. As a business man he is exact and attentive to business, ever watchful of the interests of those whom he is serving. Under the able management of Irvin L. Burke, it is needless to state, the business of the bank is rapidly increasing, being known as one of the most solid financial institutions in that part of the state. On October 1st, 1892, Mr. Burke was married to Miss Augusta Rosenberger, born in Williams county, O., July 26, 1872, and a daughter of Horace and Jane (Lynch) Rosenberger, the former being the son of Frederick and Catharine (Shaul) Rosenberger, natives of Virginia, from which state they removed to Seneca county, O., in an early day. Horace Rosenberger was born in Seneca county, O., on August 28, 1837, where he was reared on his father's farm and there married Miss Jane Lynch, daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Anderson) Lynch, both natives of Ohio, in which state they continued to reside until their deaths. Horace Rosenberger and wife continue to reside in Superior township, Williams county, on the same farm they located on when they first removed to the county.

JONATHAN BURKE, a retired farmer of Edon, Williams county, O., was born in Columbiana county of that state on June 19, 1830. He is the son of Thomas and Theodocia (Morris) Burke, both natives of Columbiana county, where the former was born on July 21, 1804, in the same house in which his son was born, and the latter on December 12, 1812. His grandparents were Samuel and Hannah (Siddall) Burke, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Virginia. Samuel Burke emigrated to America in 1798, settling in Virginia, where he was married, and in 1802 removed to Columbiana county and there died when still a young man in 1817. His wife, who was born in Loudoun county, Va., in 1776, on the death of her husband, removed with her son, Thomas Burke, to Wayne county, Ind., where she died in 1834. The maternal grandparents of Jonathan Burke were Jonathan and Sarah (Snyder) Morris, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of New Jersey. Jonathan Morris was born in Loudoun county, Va., about 1787, and died in Columbiana county, O., in April, 1865. His widow, who was born in 1792, died in Columbiana county about 1877. To them twelve children were born. Thomas Burke was reared on a farm and received only a limited education in the common schools, his parents being poor and his father dying young. From Columbiana county, O., he removed to Wayne county, Ind., where he resided two years. In 1835 he returned to Columbiana county and in 1843 removed to Williams county, locating on and clearing a farm of eighty acres near the present site of Edon, to which he later added forty acres, making a total of one hundred and twenty acres. In politics he became a Republican after the organization of that party, and in religious matters he was identified with the Christian church, his wife being a Quaker. He died June 17, 1867, and his first wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died March 16, 1842, and his last wife died October 8, 1904. Of the six children born to the first marriage only two are now living. They are: Jonathan and Stephen Emmett. Jonathan Burke grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in the common schools of Columbiana, Trumbull and Williams counties, O., and at Auburn, DeKalb county, Ind., attending one year each in the last two mentioned. He is a farmer by occupation, owning a farm of one hundred and eight acres, a part of which is at Edon, where he resides. In politics he was for a time a Republican, but now he is identified with the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Christian church. On November 24, 1853, he was wedded to Miss Phoebe Bratton, born in Pennsylvania on April 30, 1836, the daughter of James and Hannah Bratton, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Williams county in 1842, where she died on February 29, 1856, and he on April 9, 1860. The wife of Jonathan Burke, who was an aunt of Judge Emmett Bratton of Angola, Ind., died on March 20, 1870. To them were born five children, as follows: Iva I. Allamong, Galen, Hannah T. Isenhart, Irvin, of whom mention is made in the preceding sketch, and Ira. On April 6, 1871, Mr. Burke married Miss Anna Wiloughby, born in Columbiana county on October 22, 1841, the daughter of John and Sarah (Luke) Wiloughby, natives of Columbiana county, who came to Williams county in 1863, where she died in 1888, her husband having died at the Soldiers Home in Dayton, O., in 1873. To the second marriage of Jonathan Burke there was born one child, Iona T., born October 5, 1875. On August 8, 1897, she was married to Ray E. Noble, a prominent young business man of Edon. They have one child, George Morris, born July 7, 1904. Iona T. Noble and her husband reside with Mr. Burke. Mrs. Burke was a member of the Christian church and died on October 12, 1904.

FRANK BURKHART, one of the progressive and highly successful farmers of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Crawford county of that state, January 12, 1864. He is the son of George and Rosanna (Songer) Burkhart, both natives of Pennsylvania. His grandparents were Tobias and Christina (Keiss) Burkhart, both natives of Germany. Tobias Burkhart came to the United States in 1804 with his mother, Dorothy (Beal) Burkhart, and located in Lycemburg, Heppin township, Pa., where she died. His wife, Christina (Keiss) Burkhart, came to America in 1817, both of her parents having died in Germany. They came to Williams county in 1865 and settled on a farm in St. Joseph township, where he died in 1876, aged eighty years, and she died nine years later, aged eighty-three years. The maternal grandparents of Frank Burkhart were George and Catherine (Encen) Songer, he a native of Germany and she of Pennsylvania. George Songer was born in 1807 and emigrated to America when seven years old, locating first in Pennsylvania and then in Crawford county, O., in 1850, where he and his wife died. George Burkhart was born March 22, 1829, in Pennsylvania, and came with his parents to Crawford county in 1847, and from there removed to Williams county in 1865, settling on a farm in St. Joseph township, where he now resides. Prior to farming for himself he was for some years engaged in the saw and grist-mill business, in which he met with unusual success, as is evidenced by the extensive patronage that he enjoyed. In politics he was an active Democrat and with his wife a member of the Evangelical church. They have had seven children, three sons and four daughters. They are: Sophia, born July 23, 1854; Joseph, born May 25, 1858; Sarah, born January 21, 1861; Samuel F., born June 6, 1862; Frank, born January 12, 1864; Ida, born December 25, 1866, and Anna, born April 4, 1872. Frank Burkhart, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, receiving a fair common school education. Farming is his chosen avocation, and the fact that he now owns two hundred acres of very valuable land within a mile of Edgerton proves that he has made a wise choice. In addition to general farming he deals largely in horses and other stock, shipping his purchases to all parts of the country. While affiliated with the Democratic party he has never sought a public office. He and his wife attend the Evangelical church. On January 31, 1895, he was wedded to Miss Catharine Groff, born in Sterling, Ill., January 8, 1870, the daughter of Henry and Sarah (Johnson) Groff, the former a native of Pennsylvania. Henry Groff followed the occupation of milling for a number of years, but now resides on a farm in St. Joseph township. He and wife have had seven children, six of whom are still living. John Groff, the father of Henry Groff, removed from Pennsylvania to Ashland county, O., in an early day and there both he and his wife died at a ripe old age. Frank Burkhart and wife have had one child, Harry, born September 10, 1900.

JACOB J. BURKHART, a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Lycoming county, Pa., October 15, 1842. He is the son of Tobias and Christena (Keiss) Burkhart, mentioned in the preceding sketch. He was reared on his father's farm and educated at Bucyrus, Crawford county, O. Having learned the shoemaker's trade, he set up a shop in Edon, O., and plied his avocation there for almost fifteen years. Selling his shop he invested the proceeds in a farm of sixty acres about two miles northwest of Edgerton, on which he has lived the past twenty-two years, following general farming. To public office he has never aspired, notwithstanding he is a very active Democrat. Jacob J. Burkhart married Miss Harriet Mowery, who was born in Sandusky county, O., January 27, 1851, and died November 9, 1887, aged thirty-six years, four months and twelve days. On July 4, 1889, he married Miss Mary E. Hollinger of Sandusky county, born May 24, 1859, the daughter of Charles and Philipina (Hopp) Hollinger. Charles Hollinger was born in Bavaria, Germany, September 14, 1814. He married in 1841 and emigrated to America seven years later, locating in Sandusky county, where he resided on a farm until 1867, when he removed to Williams county, settling on a farm two miles northeast of Edgerton. His wife, also a native of Bavaria, was born June 14, 1814. They are both dead, he dying July 21, 1889, aged nearly seventy-five years, and she on January 23, 1905, aged nearly ninety-one years. They were the parents of seven daughters and three sons, all of whom are living. Bartlett Hollinger, the father of Charles Hollinger, was a native of Germany and came to the United States with his son in 1848, and died in Sandusky county. Fred and Jacob, brothers of Charles Hollinger, came over at the same time, the former dying at Fremont, O., in 1889, and the latter is now a resident of Sandusky county, his farm being twelve miles west of Fremont. Henry Hollinger, who came to this country two years before his father and brothers, settled in Sandusky county and died at Bettsville in that county in 1899. Two sisters and a half-sister of Mr. Burkhart's first wife emigrated to America, locating in Baltimore, Md., where all died except one sister, who died at Bowling Green, O. To Jacob J. Burkhart and his first wife there were born four children. They are: Fred Isaac, born December 4, 1872; Willis Daniel, born November 13, 1874; Maudie Elizabeth, born January 19, 1877, and died June 28, 1895; and Samuel Jacob, born October 18, 1881. By his second wife he has had three children, all daughters: Gladys May, born January 26, 1892; Flossie Ladortha, born February 19, 1894, and Carrie Gertrude, born May 18, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics Mr. Burkhart is a staunch Democrat.

JOSEPH BURKHART, a practical and prominent farmer of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Crawford county of that state, May 25, 1858. He is the son of George Burkhart, mentioned elsewhere in this work. When twelve years of age he removed with his parents from his native county to Williams county, receiving his public school training in both counties. Reared on a farm, it is quite natural that he has chosen farming as his avocation in life. In addition to this he has paid special attention to stock raising, a venture that has in his case proved remarkably remunerative. He is the owner of two hundred and eleven acres in St. Joseph township and twenty acres in DeKalb county, Ind., the two pieces of land joining. This property has practically all been made by him as he received little assistance from his father. While an active Democrat, he has never been an aspirant to public office. He and wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she is an active member. On December 25, 1884, he married Miss Lettie Casebere, who was born in De Kalb county, Ind., December 15, 1866. She is the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Kniseley) Casebere, the former born October 8, 1832, in Tuscarawas county, and the latter in Canal Dover, of the same county, November 2, 1835. George Casebere was the son of John and Nancy (Smiley) Casebere, who came to Williams county in 1840, where he died September 4, 1881, and she in 1869. They had twelve children, of whom eight are still living. The father of Mrs. Burkhart, George Casebere, for years a prominent merchant at Blakeslee, Williams county, died in July, 1896, and his wife three years earlier. They had four children, of whom three are living. Joseph Burkhart and wife are the parents of three children: Ora Glen, born July 5, 1885; Earl Lyston, born August 22, 1888, and Arthur Dale, born February 11, 1890.

Mrs. Burkhart is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Burkhart is a Democrat, but has never sought office. He pays strict attention to his farming interests, assisted by his sons.

MORRISON C. BURKHART, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Pioneer, O., is a native of Bridgewater township, Williams county, born October 15, 1874. He is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Sypsey) Burkhart, both natives of Crawford county, O., the former born June 9, 1844. His grandparents were Christian and Christina (Reese) Burkhart, both natives of Germany, who settled in Crawford county in an early day and in 1859 located on a farm of sixty acres in Williams county, which he cleared and improved. Here he died in 1874 and was survived by his widow twenty years. John and Catherine (Myers) Sypsey were his maternal grandparents, the former a native of Crawford county and the latter of Germany. He died in 1853 and was survived by his widow, who died in Williams county on January 20, 1890. Jacob Burkhart grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in both English and German in the common schools of the county. When fifteen years old he drove an ox team from Crawford to Williams county. In 1870 he purchased and cleared the farm now owned by his son, Morrison C. He was a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics, and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. As township trustee he served his constituents faithfully and well. He died on the homestead in 1895. To him and wife there were born the following children: Morrison C.; Emma; Charlie, deceased; Ida, deceased; Carrie; Maud; Edith, and Sherman. Morrison C. Burkhart was reared on a farm and received a fair common school education. He now resides on the homestead of 140 acres where he carries on successfully general farming and stock raising. In politics he is a Democrat.

SAMUEL F. BURKHART, a successful farmer and live stock dealer of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Crawford county of that state, June 6, 1862. He is the son of George Burkhart, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. Having been brought up on a farm, it is but natural that he has made farming his occupation for life. The thorough training that he received while working for his father fitted him for a successful life in the same line of work. His ownership of one hundred and sixty acres of the most valuable and productive land in the county, located one mile from Edgerton, measures to some extent his success as a farmer. He deals extensively in horses and buys and sells all other kinds of live stock. Having a thorough knowledge of stock of all kinds, and being a shrewd trader, he has met with unusual success as a stockman. Possessed of sound judgment and good common sense, he is rated as one of the most successful business men in the county. His time is wholly taken up with the management of his business affairs, so that he has no time to engage in any other enterprises. In politics he is a stanch Democrat, but in no sense an office seeker. In church work he and wife are identified with the Evangelical church. On May 16, 1890, he was wedded to Miss Lana Landle, born in Edgerton, February 15, 1866, the daughter of Christopher and Lana (Miller) Landle, a prosperous farmer of St. Joseph township. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart, named Charlie, born March 15, 1893; Oscar, born October 16, 1900, and Raymond, born June 19, 1903. While still comparatively a young man Mr. Burkhart has achieved success of which he has just cause to be proud. By attending strictly to his own business and by making a close study of live stock, always depending on his own judgment, he ranks among the foremost of the men of affairs in his county.

EDWARD S. BUTLER, a prominent citizen and well-known marble and granite dealer of Montpelier, Williams county, O., is a representative of the same branch of the Butler family that numbers among its distinguished members Gen. B. F. Butler of Civil war fame. He was born in Pittsfield, Mass., on March 4, 1865, in the same house in which his father, Sylvester Butler, and his grandfather, Dudley Butler, were born. In 1873 Sylvester Butler brought his family to Ohio and located at Berea, near Cleveland, and later at Cleveland. By occupation he was a civil engineer as well as a carpenter, both of which avocations he plied diligently for some years. He married Miss Ellen Watson, a native of New York State and the daughter of John Watson. Both died in Cleveland, the former in 1898 and the latter in 1901. Edward S. Butler grew to manhood at his home in Berea, where he received a substantial and practical education. After the family removed to Cleveland he learned the marble and granite business and afterwards followed that trade in many different states. In 1896 he came to Montpelier and opened up a marble establishment, beginning in a very small way. By dint of close application to business and high-class workmanship he has succeeded in building up an extensive and profitable trade, and today is the proprietor of the largest marble establishment in Montpelier. All kinds of stone, granite and marble are skillfully fashioned and shaped for the market. Mr. Butler stands high in Masonry, being a member of the Montpelier Blue Lodge and the Bryan Chapter. His choice for a helpmeet in life's journey was Miss Clara Strawser, the daughter of Philip Strawser of Montpelier. To this marriage two children have been born, Carlton and Margaret Maude. Mr. and Mrs. Butler are actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal church.

MYRON F. CALTRIDER, a highly respected and prosperous farmer of Center township, Williams county, O., was born on the old homestead, February 3, 1854. He is the son of John W. and Emaline (Bostwick) Caltrider, the former having been born in New York on December 3, 1823, and the latter in Franklin county, O., April 25, 1826. Emaline Caltrider is the daughter of Abel and Sallie (Fitch) Bostwick, both natives of New York, who removed to Medina county, O., where they spent the remainder of their days. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters, of whom one son and two daughters are still living. John Caltrider grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in the common schools of his native county. In 1850 he settled on and cleared the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which his son now owns. He was a farmer by occupation and a Republican in politics, and served as township assessor for a number of years. He died on the home place in 1872 and his widow still survives, being seventy-nine years old. She is an earnest member of the Baptist church. They had only one child, the subject of this sketch. Myron F. Caltrider was reared on the old homestead and educated in part in the common schools of the county and in part in those of Bryan, where he spent two years. Having been brought up on a farm, it was natural that he should choose farming as his avocation for life. In addition to general farming he is interested in the breeding of registered Duroc Jersey swine and Short Horned cattle. His farm is located two miles west of Bryan, and on it he has built a residence that is a credit to any farming community. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party, and with his wife is a member of the Baptist church. In 1876 he was united in marriage to Miss Alice Wyatt, a native of Philadelphia, where the marriage ceremony was celebrated. She died on April 6, 1902.

JEROME W. CALVIN, a prominent and successful farmer and road supervisor of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., was born on the old Calvin homestead in that township on March 17, 1861. He is a representative of one of the oldest and most highly respected families in Williams county. He is the son of Andrew J. and Emily (Byers) Calvin, both natives of Portage county, O. His great-grandfather was David Calvin of Portage county. Joshua and Elizabeth (McGowan) Calvin, his grandparents removed from Portage to Williams county and located in Pulaski township, where he followed general farming during the remainder of his natural life. To these parents twelve children were born, eight of whom grew to maturity. His first wife having died, Joshua Calvin married Miss Nancy Cassidy and by her had three children, named Elizabeth, Estella and Myrtella. Having a second time become a widower, he married his third wife, a widow, but no children were born to this marriage. Andrew J. Calvin was born on April 10, 1834, and was fourteen years old when he came with his parents to Williams county, where he grew to manhood and followed general farming. On January 1, 1860, he married Emily Byers, the daughter of Frederick and Catherine

(Strock) Byers. While an ardent Republican, he never aspired to public office. In religious matters he was identified with the Christian church, of which organization he was for many years an elder. He died on March 27, 1895, highly esteemed as an exemplary citizen and a Christian. To him and wife there were born six children, as follows: Jerome W.; Emmett E. of Metz, Ind., in the well and wind-mill business; Charles O., a farmer of Nuckolls county, Neb.; Rosie Dell, the wife of Wm. H. Scott of Hillsdale county, Mich.; Harry B., oil merchant of Bradner, Wood county, O., and Dell, who is still at home. Several of these children have taught school. Jerome W. Calvin has always made his home on the old Calvin homestead, where he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising. For several years he and his brother, E. E. Calvin, have been engaged in the well and wind-mill business in the states of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. On his farm there are eight hundred sugar maple trees, from the water of which he manufactures a large quantity of syrup each year. Being an earnest Republican, he takes a deep interest in politics and has served as road supervisor for three years. Mr. Calvin is a member of Bryan Lodge, No. 221, Knights of Pythias, and of the Home Guards, No. 12.

LEWIS G. CALVIN, a prominent and well-to-do farmer of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in Beaver county, Pa., in which state his English ancestors had located in an early day. He is the grandson of James Calvin and wife, both natives of England, who, together with two brothers, emigrated to America and located in Pennsylvania. Jonathan and Sophia (Baker) Morris, his maternal grandparents, also of English nativity, came to the United States and located first in Washington county, Pa., and afterwards in Mahoning county, O., where they spent the remainder of their days. Lewis G. Calvin is the son of Jonathan and Marie (Morris) Calvin, both natives of Pennsylvania, who first removed from that State to Mahoning county, O., and in 1849 to Columbiana county of the same state. Jonathan Calvin, reared on a farm and educated in the common schools, was a farmer by occupation, and until the Civil war a Democrat in politics. Then he became a Republican. He died in Mahoning county on September 5, 1891, and his widow died on March 11, 1899. Lewis G. Calvin grew to manhood on a farm, receiving a fair common school education. In 1869 he came to Williams county, but returned the same year to Columbiana county. Four years later he again removed to Williams county and has resided here ever since. The farm which he purchased in 1902, and on which he now lives, consists of one hundred and ten acres and is just one-half mile south of Edon. He is an Independent in politics and a member of the Blakeslee lodge, Knights of Pythias. On March 4, 1869, he was married to Miss Mary A. Davis, born in Mahoning county on January 12, 1849, the daughter of Thomas and

Betsey (McGowen) Davis, both natives of Mahoning county, where the former was born on December 13, 1823, and the latter on March 7, 1827. They came to Williams county in 1869 and there spent the rest of their days, excepting a short time spent in Tennessee. Thomas Davis was a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics, and with his wife a member of the Christian church. He died on May 18, 1902, and is survived by his widow, who is now seventy-eight years old. They were the parents of six children, five of whom are yet living. The sixth child died in 1865, while in active service in the Civil war. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Calvin were John and Mary Davis, both natives of Wales. They were married in their native country and with their two children emigrated to America about the year 1820, locating first in Pittsburg, Pa. From Pittsburg they removed to Mahoning county, O., settling on a farm which he cleared and where both died. Her maternal grandparents were Samuel and Susan (Hartzell) McGowen. To Lewis G. Calvin and wife there have been born eight children. They are: Charles S., born November 28, 1869, who married Miss Lizzie Stump, October 7, 1899, and is the father of two children, named Wayne Burl, born September 12, 1900, and Gladys Marie, born in August, 1902; Albert F., born April 11, 1873, who married Miss Carrie Bordner, November 2, 1899, and has by her one son, Albert Elden, born August 16, 1903; Park E., born May 16, 1875, married to Miss Pearl Boisher on March 24, 1900, and is the father of one daughter, Ethel, born August 29, 1901; Ora Lewellan was born August 8, 1878, and died February 13, 1879; Minnie Idella, born June 10, 1880, who on November 25, 1898, became the wife of Clyde Berdett Pickle, born in Florence township, Williams county, November 8, 1878, the son of Benjamin Pickle, a pioneer of Williams county; Lewis Earl, born October 5, 1882; Thomas Jonathan, born December 13, 1886; Oscar Leroy, born July 4, 1889.

CONSIDER D. CAULKINS is numbered among the prosperous farmers of Brady township, and he may well be designated a pioneer of Williams county, since he has here maintained his home for nearly a half century. Mr. Caulkins is a native of the old Keystone state of the Union, having been born in Bradford county, Pa., on the 16th of February, 1835, and being a son of Friend and Demaris (Turner) Caulkins. Friend Caulkins was born in the state of Connecticut, and his marriage was solemnized in Pennsylvania, from which state he removed with his family to Steuben county, N. Y., both he and his wife passing the closing years of their lives in Corning, that county, where his death occurred in 1873. His widow survived him by about ten years. She was a daughter of Peter Turner, the maiden name of whose wife was Hunt, and both died in Bradford county, Pa. Consider D. Caulkins passed his boyhood days in his native county, where he secured his early educational discipline in the common schools, while he continued to attend school for some time after the removal of the family to Steuben county, N. Y. In 1857 he came to Williams county and located in Brady township, where he devoted his attention to the raising of tobacco for several years. He then purchased a farm in Madison township, where he lived a short time, after which he sold the property and purchased another farm, near Lockport, Brady township. In 1873 he sold this place and purchased his present fine homestead, which is located in section 27, that township, and which comprises seventy-six acres of most arable land, while the improvements are of excellent type, making the place an attractive country home. In politics Mr. Caulkins has ever been a stanch Democrat, but he has never desired or held public office. January 29, 1859, Mr. Caulkins married Miss Charity M. Miller, who was born in Brady township, this county, on September 7, 1840, being a daughter of Colonel William and Phoebe (Parker) Miller, who were pioneers of the township, where they both continued to reside until death. Mr. and Mrs. Caulkins have two sons. Frederick M. resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., being a traveling salesman, married Miss Clara Teeter, who was born in Canada, and they have three children,—Frank T., Alice and Elsie. Charles, the younger son, has the active management of his father's farm and is an enterprising and capable young business man. Both sons attended the high school in Stryker and duly profited by the advantages thus afforded them.

ALFRED A. CLAY, a well-to-do farmer of Center township, Williams county, O., was born in Wayne county of that state on September 4, 1848. He is a son of Andrew Clay, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Alfred A. Clay was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools of Wayne and Williams counties. In 1862 he removed with his parents to St. Joseph township, Williams county, where the parents continued to reside until their deaths. In 1898 he purchased the fine farm of eighty-five acres in Center township where he now resides. He follows general farming and breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, but in no sense a seeker for office, and with his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Melbern. On September 9, 1869, he was wedded to Miss Olivia Lake, born in Licking county, O., May 9, 1852, the daughter of Jesse and Margaret (Evans) Lake, the former born in Licking county, February 8, 1822, and the latter in the same county April 21, 1821. Jesse Lake was the son of Elijah Lake, a native of Virginia, who came to Ohio in an early day and died in Licking county in 1875. His wife surviving him nineteen years died aged ninety-eight years, nine months and twenty-three days. Their married life extended through fifty-four years. An uncle of Mrs. Lake lived to be one hundred and seven years old and a sister reached the advanced age of ninety-four years. Jesse Lake, a farmer by occupation, came to Williams county in 1875 and here his wife died August 6, 1886. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are now living. In politics he is a Republican and with his wife a member of the Christian church. To Alfred A. Clay and wife were born five children. Their names are: Adam, born August 20, 1870, and died February 12, 1881; Oliver E., born January 5, 1874, a Republican in politics, for fifteen years a clerk in a store, for eight years a merchant and now a successful farmer of DeKalb county, Ind.; Margaret Ellen, born September 9, 1878; Elsie and Sarah, twins, born November 21, 1883, and both died on December 23, of the same year.

JEREMIAH CLAY, one of the leading citizens of Bryan and a member of the Williams county Board of Commissioners, was born in Richland county, O., February 13, 1845. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Glime) Clay. The Clay family came originally from Germany, and the great-great-grandfather of "Jerry" Clay was Jacob Clay, who was born in the Principality of Hesse, Germany. This old ancestor of the family served as a soldier with the Hessian troops hired by King George the Third, of England, and was sent to America to fight against the Colonies during the Revolutionary War. Soon after arriving in this country, however, he forsook the British flag and took sides with the patriots of the Colonial army, and helped to defeat the Mother Country. He married before leaving the Old Country, and after the war the family came to America and settled near Hanover, York county, Pennsylvania. They reared one son, Jacob Clay, who was born in Germany on January 30, 1769, and died on August 17, 1860. His wife, Catherine, was born March 30, 1772, and died on September 5, 1879. John Clay, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, removed with his parents from York county, Pa., to Richland county, O., in 1828, where three sons and a daughter were born to him and wife. Their names follow: George, Jacob, William and Catherine. Jacob Clay, the father of Jeremiah Clay, was born on November 21, 1821, and was married in Richland county, in 1844, to Miss Elizabeth Glime, who was born in Pennsylvania on July 11, 1823. They came to Williams county, O., in 1845, and settled in Millcreek township. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to manhood and womanhood are as follows: Jeremiah, William, Catherine, Sarah Ann and John H., all of whom except Jeremiah were born in Williams county. Sarah Ann married John Holden and both are deceased, one daughter, Ida, surviving them. Jacob Clay died in April, 1893, and is survived by his widow. Jeremiah Clay was reared on the old farm in Millcreek township, where he received his education in the common schools. With the exception of nine years spent in Fulton county, O., and two years in Michigan, he has spent practically his entire life within the borders of Williams county. On February 15, 1864, he enlisted in Company G of the Sixty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry and served until the close of the war, receiving his final discharge on July 10, 1865. With the exception of the time spent in the army and the six years spent in the mercantile business at Pulaski, he has followed agricultural pursuits, in which he has met with marked success, and has accumulated quite a competency. Mr. Clay is actively identified with the Republican party, and in 1903 was elected one of the county commissioners by that party, taking his office in September, 1904. He is a member of Post No. 149, Grand Army of the Republic, of the Odd Fellow fraternity, and with his family a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On June 24, 1869, he was united in marriage in Bryan to Miss Elizabeth, the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Bear, pioneer settlers of Williams county. Six children have been born to Jeremiah Clay and wife, three of whom died in childhood. Those living are: Sydney S., a minister of the Methodist church and a member of the Central Ohio Conference, who married Miss Ona McCerty; Martha D., the wife of Lincoln Kelley, a well-known citizen of Bryan and a member of the insurance company of Kelley Brothers and a manufacturer of cement shingles; Charles B., who married Miss Hattie Finch and resides on the old home place in Jefferson township.

WILLIAM CLAY, a successful and prominent farmer, is a native of Wayne county, O., where he was born September 17, 1850. He is the son of Andrew and Mary (Weiker) Clay, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born in July, 1821, and the latter in July, 1825. His paternal grandparents were Christian and Elizabeth (Snyder) Clay, both natives of Pennsylvania, the latter of whom died in Pennsylvania. He again married and they removed to Wayne county, O., in 1834, and some years later he removed to Mercer county, O., and settled near Mendon, where his wife died; and later he took a third wife who survived him. He died at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. Farming and weaving constituted his life work. The maternal grandparents of William Clay were Adam and Mary (Reed) Weiker, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of German and the latter of Irish extraction. About the year 1830 they removed to Wayne county, O., and settled on the farm now owned by a grandson, where they spent the remainder of their days. Andrew Clay, the father of William Clay, was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. In 1862 he located on a farm of eighty acres in St. Joseph township, Williams county. Having learned the carpenters' trade, he followed that occupation in connection with farming. He was a Democrat until the breaking out of the Civil war, since which time and until his death he was a stanch Republican. He and his wife were members of the Church of God. He died on the old homestead, in August, 1891, and his wife survived him until 1905, when she also passed away in her eightieth year. William Clay grew to manhood on his father's farm, was educated in the common schools and chose farming as his life work. In 1880 he purchased a farm of eighty acres and later thirty additional acres adjoining it. In addition to general farming he is largely interested in raising fine stock. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and with his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Melbern, O. On February 15, 1877, he was united in marriage to Miss Mollie E. Couts, born in Center township, Williams county, August 28, 1859, the daughter of Thomas and Matilda (McManus) Couts, the former a native of Holmes county, O., and the latter of Crawford county, O. To William Clay and wife there were born three children. They are: Charlie T., born July 13, 1881, educated in the common schools, a farmer by occupation and a Republican in politics; Effie M., born November 29, 1883, educated in the district schools, the Edgerton high school, the Angola, Ind., Tri-State Normal and a teacher by occupation; and Arthur, born December 27, 1892. Thomas Couts, the father of Mrs. William Clay, was born in Holmes county, April 4, 1828, his wife, born July 22, 1829, being a native of Crawford county. In 1851 they removed to Williams county and located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Center township. He was a farmer by occupation, a Republican in politics, and with his wife a member of the English Lutheran church. In 1861 he died on the old homestead and the widow, now a member of the Methodist church, resides with her son in Melbern at the venerable age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are still living. William Mc., the eldest son of Thomas Couts and wife, was born August 18, 1848, and educated in the common schools. He is both railroader and farmer by occupation, and a Republican in politics. In 1889 he was wedded to Miss Mary Stantz, born in Holmes county in 1851, the daughter of Henry and Susan (Harmon) Stantz, who came from Holmes county to Williams county in 1861, where he died in January, 1905, his wife having died in 1891. To William McManus Couts and wife were born two children: Charlie J., born November 25, 1889, and Wilbur T., born April 22, 1897.

LINDSAY J. COLLIE, a well-to-do farmer of Northwest township, Williams county, O., is of Scotch descent, whose parents emigrated to the United States in an early day. His grandparents. William and Margaret (Morrison) Collie, both natives of Scotland, lived and ended their days there. His maternal grandparents, James Lindsay and wife, were both born in Scotland and emigrated to America in 1832, locating in Richland county, O., where both spent their days, the former dying at the ripe age of ninety-six years. The parents of Lindsay J. Collie were Alexander and Elizabeth (Lindsay) Collie, both natives of Scotland, the former born in Bauffshire, in 1828, and the latter in Aberdeenshire in 1826. Alexander Collie while growing to manhood learned the carpenters' trade, serving an apprenticeship of five years. In 1850 he emigrated from his native land to Canada, whence after a year's stay he removed to Ashland county, O. In 1858 he came to Williams county, O., and located on a farm in Northwest township, which farm is now owned by Lindsay J. and his brother, William A. Collie. In politics he was an active Republican, having held the offices of township trustee, treasurer and appraiser, and that of director of the Williams County Infirmary. During the latter part of the Civil war he enlisted in the One Hundred and Ninety-Sixth Ohio volunteer infantry and served until the close of the conflict. He and wife were members of the Eagle Creek Presbyterian church, of which organization he was an elder. He died on the homestead on May 1, 1887, survived by his widow, who died on March 16, 1891. To these parents there were born three children, of whom Lindsay J. and William A. are living. Their names follow: Lindsay J.; Jennette, who died in 1892, and William Alexander, who follows farming on a farm adjoining Lindsay J.'s farm. Lindsay J. Collie was born in Northwest township on February 22, 1860. He was reared on the parental farm and received his education by attending the public schools. In youth he learned the carpenters' trade and has followed that occupation in connection with general farming ever since. Forty-five acres of the home farm are now his property. This land has been brought to a high state of cultivation and is well equipped with all the necessary buildings of an up-to-date farm. The only public office that he has filled is that of justice of the peace. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party. He is a member of Edon Lodge, No. 474, Free and Accepted Masons. On December 29, 1894, he was wedded to Miss Libbie Thompson, born in Northwest township on June 5, 1868. She is the daughter of George and Bethia (Fox) Thompson, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. George Thompson came to Ohio from his native state in 1853. His parents were Robert and Martha Thompson. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Thompson were Thomas and Elizabeth (Lyon) Fox, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Morrow county, O. They came to Williams county in 1853 and located on the farm on which they ended their days, the former dying in 1865 and the latter on January 29, 1878. He was a farmer, a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the Christian church. Of the five children born to them three are yet living, two having died in infancy. On January 15, 1898, there was born to Lindsay J. Collie and wife, a son, Loren Guy, who is now attending the district schools. Mr. and Mrs. Collie are members of the Eagle Creek Presbyterian church.

WILLARD W. COMBS, of Brady township, is the owner of the old homestead farm on which his parents took up their residence nearly sixty years ago, and here he has gained a reputation as one of those progressive farmers and stock-growers who have so ably upheld the prestige of this favored section of the old Buckeye State, while it was his to be one of the representatives of Williams county in the Union ranks during the war of the Rebellion. Mr. Combs was born in Richland county, O., on the 9th of January, 1842, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Amelia (Smith) Combs, both of whom were born in the year 1808, the former in Belmont county, O., and the latter in the dominion of Canada. Benjamin F. Combs removed with his parents from his native county to Richland county, where his father died, and his mother passed the closing years of her life in Williams county. Mrs. Sarah Smith, mother of Amelia (Smith) Combs, likewise died in Williams county. Benjamin F. Combs came to Williams county in 1847, accompanied by his wife and seven children, and three children were born in this county, while of the ten, five are living at the present time. Mr. Combs secured a quarter section of heavily timbered land, in Brady township, clearing this and afterward selling sixty acres of the tract, while later he added to it by the purchase of an adjacent twenty acres, so that his estate at the time of his death, in February, 1875, comprised one hundred and twenty acres. He was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, when he allied himself therewith and ever afterward supported its cause. He was a consistent member of the religious body known as the Evangelical Association, of which his wife also was a devoted adherent, her death occurring in June, 1903, at the very advanced age of ninety-five years. Willard W. Combs was about four years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, and he has ever since been a resident of Brady township, having been reared on the old home farm where he now resides and having secured his youthful education in the graded schools of West Unity. June 6, 1862, when nineteen years of age, he enlisted as a private in Company C, One Hundredth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served thirteen months, after which he received his honorable discharge. He then re-enlisted, becoming a member of Company I, Eighty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he was in service for eight months, within which time he participated in the battle of Cumberland Gap, his corps taking the gap. After the close of his military service Mr. Combs returned to his home county, and here he has ever since been actively identified with farming, now owning the fine old homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings, fences, etc., while the system of drainage is altogether effective. In addition to raising the various crops common to the locality Mr. Combs also raises good horses and other live stock. In political allegiance he is an uncompromising Republican and he has been identified with Superior Lodge, No. 179, F. & A. M., since 1872, and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1866 Mr. Combs married Miss Mary M. Beaty, who was born and reared in Williams county, being a daughter of George and Jane (Wiser) Beaty, who came to this country in 1845, settling on a farm in Brady township. Mr. Beaty was born in 1809, and died on his home farm, in 1900. His widow is still living here, having been born in 1819. Mr. and Mrs. Combs became the parents of three children: Olive M. remains at the parental home; George W. is engaged in the undertaking business at Bluffton, O.; and Clinton died in infancy.

SAMUEL A. COOK, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in Crawford county of that state on March 10, 1858. He is the son of David and Dortha (Burkhart) Cook, both natives of Pennsylvania, where the former was born April 19, 1834, and the latter on October 29, 1834. His grandparents were George and Margaret (Young) Cook, both natives of Pennsylvania, and the latter the daughter of David and Rachel (Kiess) Young, natives of Germany, who settled in Pennsylvania in pioneer days. Later they removed to Crawford county, where the latter died in 1835. After the death of his wife George Cook married Rebecca Ronk of Crawford county. He died in 1892. George and Barbara (Swilly) Cook, the great grand-parents of the subject of this sketch, emigrated from Germany to America and located near Williamsport, Pa., in a very early day. David Cook, the father of Samuel A. Cook, grew to manhood on the parental farm in Pennsylvania and received his education in the log school houses of his native county. At the age of nineteen years he came to Crawford county, O., and in 1864 removed to Williams county, locating on a farm of eighty-five acres in Florence township, which he at once proceeded to clear and improve. Later he purchased an additional tract of seventy-five acres, and he now owns altogether one hundred and sixty acres of well improved and highly productive land. He is a Democrat in politics, having served as school director and road supervisor for a number of years. On November 20, 1856, he was wedded to Miss Dortha Burkhart. To this marriage there have been born the following children: Samuel A.; Rebecca, the wife of George Rockey of Florence township; and Isaac, who married Miss Essie Beebe of Richland township, Steuben county, Ind. Samuel A. Cook was reared on a farm, educated in the country schools and has chosen farming as his life work. He and his brother Isaac are managing the home farm in connection with their individual and adjoining farms. They are extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising. In his own farm there are one hundred and forty-seven acres, while in that of Isaac there are seventy-eight acres. He is a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Evangelical church. On March 10, 1883, he chose as his helpmeet in life's journey Miss Ida M. Davids, born in Guernsey county, O., on June 19, 1864, the daughter of John C. and Mary Ellen (Bell) Davids, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Maryland. Both died in Guernsey county, the former in April, 1864, and the latter on February 14, 1886. John C. Davids was the son of William and Experience Davids. To Mr. and Mrs. Davids four children were born, all of whom are yet living. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Davids married Balis Kackley, by whom she had three children, all living. To Samuel A. Cook and wife there have been born two children. They are: Mary Elizabeth, who was born January 6, 1884, and died January 9, 1903, having been married on May 22, 1902, to C. W. Kappler, a native of Germany; and Irwin Dwight, born April 17, 1889, who is assisting his father in the management of the home farm.

JACOB COOLMAN, a prominent farmer and stock-breeder of Northwest township, is a native of Medina county, O., where he was born on March 14, 1851. He is the son of David and Sarah (Moore) Coolman, the former born in Medina county, August 29, 1827, and the latter in Pennsylvania. His grandparents were George and Susanna (Emery) Coolman, both natives of Pennsylvania. In an early day George Coolman removed to Medina county, where he died on September 27, 1828, and was survived by his widow, who died in 1868. His maternal grandparents, Jacob and Catherine Moore, were natives of Pennsylvania, who removed to Medina county, O., in an early day and there died. David Coolman grew to manhood on a farm and received his education in the common schools of his home county. In 1852 he came to Williams county, and located on the farm of eighty acres now owned by R. O. Beach, which he subsequently traded for his home farm of a like number of acres. After clearing this land he purchased an additional tract of sixty acres and equipped it with all the buildings that go to make up a first-class farm. Starting with comparatively nothing, he succeeded in his undertakings by dint of hard, earnest work and close application to business. In politics he was a Democrat. To David Coolman and wife there were born the following children: Jacob; George; Elizabeth, the wife of Lewis Easterday, a farmer of Hillsdale county, Mich.; Luella, wife of Silas Johnson of Northwest township; Lodemia of Northwest township, the wife of John W. Malcolm, a farmer. Jacob Coolman grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the common schools of the county. For fifteen years he taught school, meeting with unusual success. He now owns a farm of eighty acres of fertile and highly cultivated land. Much of his time is given to the breeding of O. J. C. hogs and Shropshire sheep. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served as township clerk and school director. He has been connected with Northwest Grange since its organization. In 1874 he was joined in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Mary Musser, the daughter of John and Lydia (Keller) Musser of Northwest township. The following children have been born to their marriage: Orlo K., a farmer of Northwest township; Lula, the wife of Clarence Cooney of Camden township, Hillsdale county, Mich., and the mother of two children, Leslie and Dortha; and Lloyd Weaver, still at home.

URIAH C. COY, one of the progressive young farmers and representative citizens of Springfield township and the present incumbent of the office of township trustee, has here passed his entire life and is a scion of one of the old and influential families of Williams county. He was born on the old homestead farm, in Springfield township, on the 8th of January, 1868, and is a son of John and Catherine (Krontz) Coy. John Coy was born in Beaver Creek township, Greene county, O., on the 27th of March, 1811. In the summer of 1831 he was united in marriage to Mary Snider, and in September of that year he located in that portion of the original Williams county which is now a part of Defiance county, settling near the present village of Evansport, and having been present at the first election ever held in Tiffin township, on the 2d of April, 1832, and he had the distinction of casting the first vote at that election. His first wife died in September, 1860, and of the nine children of this union all are now deceased except Mrs. John Christy. On the 18th of August, 1861, he married Mrs. Catherine (Krontz) Johnson, of Fulton county, Ohio, widow of George Johnson, of whom mention is made in the sketch of his son, Simon Johnson, elsewhere in this work. She was born in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1835 John Snider and John Coy built the grist mill at Evansport, and Mr. Coy managed the same, as miller, for more than twenty years. In April, 1865, he removed to the present homestead farm one and one-half miles south of Stryker, Williams county, where he resided until his death, which occurred on the 12th of March, 1891. He became the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of land, in Springfield township, and upon locating in this township he set himself to the task of reclaiming his land to cultivation, eventually developing one of the finest farms in the county. He erected the present substantial and attractive brick residence and made the best of improvements throughout. Being a man of marked initiative power and good judgment he gained the maximum returns from his efforts and accumulated a competency, leaving his children well provided for. His wife survived him by more than a decade, her death occurring on the 9th of December, 1902. They had two children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the younger. Elmer died at the age of thirty-eight years. He married Miss Dollie Robinson, who survives him, as does also their only child, Bessie. John Coy was a stanch adherent of the Democratic party, and while he served in school offices he never sought political preferment of any description. He was a Dunkard in religious faith and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Uriah C. Coy was reared on the old homestead farm, a portion of which he now owns, and was afforded the advantages of the public schools of his native county. He remained at home until the death of his parents, having largely assumed the management of the farm before the demise of his honored father. He owns one hundred and fifty-one acres of the old home place, including the brick residence mentioned, and of the tract one hundred and twenty-five acres are now under cultivation, devoted to the crops best suited to the soil and climate, while he also gives considerable attention to the raising of short-horn cattle, draft horses and good grades of swine. In politics Mr. Coy clings to the faith of his father, being a stanch Democrat. He served six years as a member of the school board of his township, and in November, 1904, he was elected township trustee, for a term of three years. He and his wife are members of the Grange, and he is affiliated with the lodge of Knights of Pythias in Stryker. On the 24th of November, 1887, Mr. Coy was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Clark, who was born in Missouri, on the 22d of November, 1867, being a daughter of Stephen L. and Bell Clark, who came to Williams county when she was a child. Mr. and Mrs. Coy have three children, namely: Mary D., who was born September 20, 1890; Charles E., who was born November 29, 1893; and Florence B., who was born October 16, 1897.

HENRY AINSWORTH CRIST, a progressive and highly successful farmer of Northwest township, Williams county, O., was born in Northwest township, on June 30, 1862. His grandparents, Gilbert and Sallie Ann (Michnels) Crist were both born in New York State in 1800, the former on February 16, and the latter on February 27. Gilbert Crist was married in 1822 and came to Ashland county, O., in 1834, where he continued to reside until his on March 11, 1832. Milton B. Crist was reared on a farm and eduafter a residence of twenty years in that county, removed to Williams county and located on a farm of eighty acres in Northwest township. In 1858 he sold this farm and bought another of a like number of acres south of the village of Cooney, where he died on December 9, 1899, his wife having died five years earlier. Henry A. Crist's maternal grand-parents were James and Mary (Perkins) Redfield, the former born in Pennsylvania on December 8, 1799, and the latter in Medina county, O. James Redfield died on February 9, 1880, in Medina county. The parents of Henry A. Crist were Milton B. and Rachel (Redfield) Crist, the former born in Genesee county, N. Y., on August 10, 1824, and the latter in Lodi, Medina county, O., cated in the common schools. For four years he served as a clerk in a mercantile establishment and since then to the time of his death he gave his undivided attention to farming. For seventeen years he acted as constable. He was also a deputy-sheriff under George C. Kober. He was a Republican and with his wife a member of the Christian Union church. Four children were born to these parents, three of whom are now living. Their names follow: Gilbert James, deceased; Henry Ainsworth, William Russell and Perlie. Henry A. Crist grew to manhood on a farm and received his education by attending the common schools of the county. He is a farmer by occupation and owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres two and one-half miles northeast of Cooney. In politics he is a Republican and he has served as trustee and school director. In religious belief he is affiliated with the Liberal United Brethren church. His first wife, who died on April 20, 1896, was Miss Maggie Brandon in maidenhood. In 1899 he was wedded to Mrs. Adelaid Brandon, the widow of Hugh Brandon and the daughter of William and Julina (Barnes) Culbertson. Mrs. Crist had eight children by her first husband, Hugh Brandon, as follows: Ettie, Elsworth, Burget, Van, Arthur, Charlie, Olive and Scott. Mr. and Mrs. Crist have no children by their union.

JAMES CUMMINS, one of the venerable pioneer citizens of Williams county, has been a resident of Madison township for more than sixty years, is the owner of one of the fine farm estates of this section of the county, and is held in unreserved esteem in the community in which he has so long lived and labored to goodly ends. He was born in Bristol township, Trumbull county, Ohio, on the 24th of June, 1822, and is a son of John and Rebecca (Hatfield) Cummins, the former of whom was born in Maryland and the latter in Youngstown, Mahoning county, Ohio. Joseph Cummins, paternal grandfather of Mr. Cummins, was born in Virginia, whence he removed to Maryland and finally from that state to Washington county, Pa., where he died. His wife, whose maiden name was Nancy Boyd, was likewise a native of the Old Dominion State, and she died in Trumbull county, Ohio, at the venerable age of one hundred years. The maternal grandparents, Thomas and Hannah Hatfield, both died in Trumbull county, Ohio, honored pioneers of that section of the state. John Cummins was reared to maturity in Pennsylvania, whence he came to Ohio when a young man, locating in Trumbull county, whence he came as a pioneer to Williams county, where he was engaged in farming until his death, at the age of eighty-five years, his wife having also died in this county, at the age of sixty-five years. He was a colonel in the war of 1812, having been stationed at Cleveland, Ohio, and was one of the stanch supporters of the Democratic party, while he served a number of years as justice of the peace. His wife was a devoted member of the Church of God. They became the parents of seven children, of whom three are living. James Cummins was reared to the sturdy discipline of the pioneer farm and received a common-school education. October 10, 1840, he made his advent in Williams county, being then a sturdy and ambitious youth of eighteen years. He lent himself to arduous toil in the early days, being employed in clearing land for others and receiving in compensation four dollars an acre. He entered claim to eighty acres of wild land, which he later sold and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, his present fine homestead, most of which he cleared from the virgin forest and brought under effective cultivation. He has signally prospered with the advancement and development which the years have brought in their train, and his landed estate now comprises two hundred and sixty-eight acres, all in Madison township, and of his property he has personally reclaimed the greater portion, while he has made good improvements in the way of buildings. As the golden shadows of the evening of his days begin to lengthen from the west he finds his lines "cast in pleasant places," enjoying that peace, comfort and dignified repose which are the just reward of his many years of ceaseless toil and endeavor. He has been a stalwart supporter of the Republican party from the time of its organization and has always shown a loyal interest in public affairs of a local nature. April 13, 1843, Mr. Cummins was married to Miss Phoebe Kirk, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, where she was reared and educated, being a daughter of Timothy and Mary Kirk, who settled in Williams county in 1842, here passing the remainder of their lives. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Cummins brief data are as follows:

John lost his life while serving as a member of an Ohio regiment in the Civil war, his death having resulted from an attack of measles, and his father having brought him home a short time prior to his demise; William is a successful farmer of Madison township; Mary Jane became the wife of William Rising and is now deceased; George is a carpenter and builder by vocation and resides in Pioneer, this county; Caroline died at the age of three years; James M. is a resident of Hillsdale, Mich.; and one child died in infancy. Mrs. Cummins was summoned into eternal rest in 1863, having been a devoted member of the United Brethren church. April 12, 1864, Mr. Cummins was married to Miss Jane Evans, who was born in Portage county, Ohio, December 23, 1839, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (James) Evans, both of whom were born and reared in Wales, where they were married. Soon afterward, in 1835, they came to America, locating in Portage county, Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Cummins have been born ten children, of whom four died in early childhood. Charles is engaged in business in Pioneer, this county; Delbert C. is a farmer in Madison township; Elizabeth is the wife of Clarence Van Nortwick, of Michigan; Susie is the wife of William Martin, of Madison township; Zilpha is the wife of Charles Throne and resides in Michigan; and Orpha is residing at home. Mrs. Cummins is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and her husband has been for many years a leading member of the United Brethren church in his parish. He was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Williams county, and has been one of the most loyal supporters of its cause, while he has served in various offices of local trust and responsibility. He is well known throughout this section of the state and is one of the county's most venerable and honored pioneers. When he located in this county Defiance was still the county seat and the towns of Bryan and Montpelier had not yet sprung into existence. Of him it has been written: "He has witnessed almost the entire development of the county, has borne an important part in its civic and industrial advancement and aided in organizing its schools and churches. He voted at the first election in Madison township, there being a total of about six voters in the township at that time, while an old teapot was utilized for a ballot box. This election was held for the purpose of starting a school, there being at the time eight or nine children of school age in the community."

WILLIAM CUMMINS is one of the representative farmers and citizens of Madison township, and is a son of those honored pioneers, James and Phoebe (Kirk) Cummins, concerning whom individual mention is made in the preceding memoir, so that a recapitulation of the family history is not demanded in the present connection. Mr. Cummins was born in Jefferson township, this county, on the 21st of June, 1846, and passed his youth on the homestead farm, while he secured a common-school education and learned the trade of carpenter, to which he gave his attention to a considerable extent for a number of years. His fine farm comprises ninety-five acres and was secured by him when still covered with the native timber. He has reclaimed the place to cultivation, has erected good buildings and is one of the energetic and progressive farmers of the county, his able management being evidenced in the general air of thrift and prosperity which pervades the attractive rural estate. In national and state affairs Mr. Cummins is a stanch Republican, but in local matters where no issue is involved, he maintains an independent attitude. Both he and his wife are members of church at Pioneer, he being a member of the Baptist and she of the Methodist, and fraternally he is identified with Joy lodge, No. 461, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in that village. He was formerly identified with the Grange, whose local organization has now lapsed. December 25, 1870, Mr. Cummins was united in marriage to Miss Oceana Eggleston, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, July 17, 1848, being a daughter of Erastus and Mary (Goodwin) Eggleston, the former of whom was born in Palmyra, N. Y., November 18, 1801, and the latter of whom was born in Hebron, that state, in 1799. They came to Williams county, Ohio, in 1853, and here passed the remainder of their lives, his death occurring May 21, 1862, while his wife died March 11, 1886. Mr. Eggleston was a carpenter by trade and also owned and operated a farm. In politics he was originally a Whig and later a Republican and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had eleven children, of whom four are living: Mrs. Lucy A. Smith, of Iowa, aged eighty-six years; Mrs. Almira S. Hamblin, of Iowa, aged eighty-four; and Mrs. Elvira Loretta Snow, of Pioneer, Williams county; and Mrs. Megarah Zuver, of Coloma, Mich., both of whom have passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten. Mrs. Mary (Goodwin) Eggleston was a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Crafts) Goodwin, the latter having been a daughter of Major Edward Crafts, of Revolutionary fame. Mrs. Oceana (Eggleston) Cummins was summoned to the life eternal on the 28th of February, 1890, and is survived by one son, Walter Leroy, who has spent two years in Dennison University, at Granville, Ohio, and whose present object is electrical engineering. April 16, 1899, Mr. Cummins consummated a second marriage, being then united to Miss Clara Lee Dempsey, a daughter of James and Phoebe (Thomas) Dempsey, both of whom were born in Massachussets, where they were reared and educated. The latter was a daughter of Levi and Phoebe Crocker (Tillson) Thomas, both of whom were likewise born in Massachusetts, while in the family ancestry cognatic or direct relationship is traced to such historic characters as John Alden, Miles Standish and Governor Bradford of Massachusetts. Phoebe (Tillson) Thomas was a daughter of Isaiah and Sarah (Bradford) Tillson, the latter a lineal descendant of Governor Bradford. Levi Thomas came to Williams county in 1858 and located in Pioneer, where he conducted a shoe store, while he also had a small farm in the vicinity. He died in

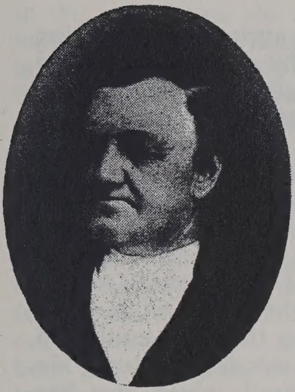
Pioneer in 1884, his wife having passed away in 1883. He assisted in organizing the Baptist church at Pioneer. They became the parents of seven children, of whom only two are living, Mrs. Emily S. Wilkinson, of Pioneer, and Mrs. S. B. Stimson, of Hillsdale, Mich. Abidan and Heman were merchants in Pioneer, where the former died. Heman later went to Kendallville, Ind., where he was engaged in the furniture business for a number of years, his death occurring in Granville, Ohio. Another son, Roger William Thomas, was a soldier in the Civil war, and he died in California, in 1903; Levi C., the last surviving son, died June 27, 1905, in South Hanson, Mass. James Dempsey, father of Mrs. Cummins, died while serving as a member of a western regiment in the Civil war. His wife, Phoebe, was born in the old Bay State, and died there when Mrs. Cummins was a child, and the latter was brought to Williams county and reared in the home of her maternal aunt, Mrs. Wilkinson, who still resides in Pioneer, as has been noted. Mrs. Cummins' only sister, Mary F., still resides in Massachusetts. Mrs. Cummins was partly educated in the schools of Pioneer and graduated from the high school at Monroeville, Ohio, and was a successful teacher for a number of years prior to her marriage.

MARTIN LUTHER CUSTAR, a thrifty farmer and progressive citizen of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., is the grandson of John and Ann Custar, the former a native of Pennsylvania, who in an early day settled in Columbiana county, O., and then removed to Williams county in 1854, where he and his wife both died. The parents of M. L. Custar were John and Lydia (Tumblin) Custar, both natives of Columbiana county. John Custar grew to manhood on his father's farm and received a liberal education in the public schools of his native county. While he worked at the carpenter trade all of his lifetime he also paid some attention to farming, owning a small farm of forty-five acres in Williams county, on which he located in 1854. Although the son of a Democrat he was an ardent Republican. With his wife he was an active worker in the United Brethren church. They were the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom are still living. He died at his home and is survived by his wife, who now resides at Montpelier, O. M. L. Custar was born in Columbiana county, October 29, 1854, reared on a farm and educated in the public schools. He learned and followed the carpenter trade for some years, but was also interested in farming, having invested his savings in a fine eighty-acre farm in St. Joseph township, Williams county, in 1885. This farm is located five and three-quarters miles from Edgerton and is fully equipped with substantial buildings, his own handiwork. While an active Republican he never aspired to public office. With his wife he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church of Melbern, O. In 1876 he was wedded to Miss Lydia Ann Kollar, born in Williams county, April 11, 1855, the daughter of Conrad and Rebecca (Shall) Kollar, the former a native of Tuscarawas county and the latter of

Seneca county, both in Ohio. When a young man Conrad Kollar entered the land on which he died in 1901. His wife came to Williams county with her parents, who were among the earliest settlers of that county. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Custar were Jacob and Margaret Ann Kollar, who were pioneers of Williams county, both dying in Montpelier. To M. L. Custar and wife four children have been born. They are: Viola, born June 22, 1877, educated in the public schools of Center township, Edgerton high school and the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., and for six years a teacher in the county; Luda Lavena, born January 5, 1879, and now the wife of Adrian Lint, a farmer of St. Joseph township; Leafy Adell, born July 23, 1881, the wife of Charles V. Allen, a farmer of this township; and Gertrude May, born October 16, 1883, who was educated at Edgerton, O., and Angola, Ind., a teacher for one year in the county and now the wife of Jesse Garns of Superior township. Konrad Kollar was born August 21, 1819, in Tuscarawas county, O., and while a young man came to Williams county, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, five miles southwest of Montpelier. Building a small hut, he commenced to clear away the forest. He lived alone about two years on his farm and then returned home and visited his parents. He then came to Williams county again and wedded Miss Rebecca Shaull, and to this union there were born eight children. The parents lived to see the wilderness transformed into a lovely abiding place. George Tumblin, father of Lydia (Tumblin) Custar, was born in Ireland about the year 1805. He came to Columbiana county, O., when a young man and bought a farm of two hundred acres, four miles west of Hanoverton, that county. He was married to Lydia Goodwin, and to this union were born eight children.

JOSEPH M. DARGITZ, a general farmer and successful breeder of Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs of Northwest township, Williams county, O., is of German descent, his paternal grandfather, William Dargitz, having been born in Germany. William Dargitz emigrated to America in an early day, locating in Pennsylvania. In 1832 he came to Crawford county, O., and there his wife ended her days. He died on the ocean while on his way to visit his people in Germany. The maternal grandparents of Joseph M. Dargitz, John and Catherine (Sipes) Brubaker, were both natives of Pennsylvania, who first removed to Crawford county, and in 1854 to Williams county, locating in Florence township, where both ended their days. Harmon and Margaret (Brubaker) Dargitz, the parents of Joseph M., were born in Pennsylvania, the former in 1824 and the latter in 1828. They came from their native state to Ohio, locating in Superior township, where he followed general farming. In politics he was a Republican and in religious matters he, together with his wife, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The only public office that he held was that of township trustee. He died in Montpelier in 1898 and was survived by his widow until November 4, 1902. Of the seven children born to their marriage only three are now living. Joseph M. Dargitz was born in Crawford county, O., on January 1, 1852. He received his education by attending the district and the Bryan graded schools. On his farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres he follows general farming and makes a specialty of breeding Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest, having held the office of township clerk several years, township trustee three years and assessor one year. He is now serving as school director, having been elected to that office in 1904. In politics he is a stanch Republican and in religious matters a member of the Presbyterian church. The maiden name of the lady to whom he was married on November 13, 1875, was Miss Sarah Kimmell, a native of Richland county, O., and the daughter of Adam and Louisa (Culbertson) Kimmell, the former a native of Pennsylvania. They removed to Williams county, O., in 1854, locating in Northwest township,, where both ended their days. They were members of the Dunkard church. Four children have been born to Joseph M. Dargitz and wife. They are: Clara A., Jennie M., Bertha A. and Harvey B.

ROLIN E. DARGITZ, junior member of the firm of Neil & Dargitz, general contractors and builders, of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born in Bridgewater township of this county on March 15, 1863. He is the son of Washington and Martha Jane (Braden) Dargitz, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Morrow county in 1844 and the latter in Wayne county in 1847. Washington Dargitz came to Williams county from Crawford county, O., and located on a farm, carrying on general farming. In 1870 he was so unfortunate as to lose his wife. He now resides at Pioneer, where he is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. Rolin E. Dargitz grew to manhood on the paternal farm and received his education by attendance at the common schools of the county. At the age of twenty he left the parental roof to make his own way in the world. Going to Fayette, O., he learned the carpenter trade, which has ever since been his avocation. After working for three years for one man in Fayette, he removed to Pioneer, where he worked at his trade for one year. He then married and removed to Alvordton, Williams county, and there plied his trade for the next six years with marked success. From Alvordton he removed to Montpelier, and here for the next two years he did a successful business in the line of contracting. Then with Mr. Neil he formed the firm of Neil & Dargitz, which today enjoys the reputation of being the most successful firm in that line of business in Montpelier. Their work is thoroughly and honestly done, hence they richly deserve the success that they have won. Mr. Dargitz, notwithstanding the fact that he is a very busy man, has always found time to devote to public affairs, having served on the councils of Alvordton and Montpelier. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Knights of Pythias organization. On November 28, 1888, he was wedded to Miss Jennie Warner, a native of Williams county and the daughter of Joseph Warner. These parents have two children, Floyd and Carl.



ANTHONY DEAN.—A publication of this nature exercises its highest function when it enters a memoir to so worthy and useful a citizen as was the late Anthony Dean, who was for many years one of the representative agriculturists of Williams county, of which section he might consistently be designated a pioneer, while he was a representative of one of the early settled families in this section of the old Buckeye state. Anthony Dean was born in the town of Canandaigua, Ontario county, N. Y., on the 5th of May, 1821, and was a son of James and Abigail (Hulce) Dean, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in the state of New York. James Dean was a soldier in the British army, from which he deserted and came to the United States, becoming a pioneer of the old Empire state, and there being united in marriage to Miss Abigail Hulce, whose parents were early settlers in the vicinity of Canandaigua. In the year 1832 they came to Ohio, making the trip by way of the Great Lakes and thence by the overland route through the forest to Lucas county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, and of their fifteen children only four are now living. James Dean was a successful farmer, reclaiming much land to cultivation and having been one of the extensive real-estate owners of this section. In Lucas county and across the county line in Michigan he bought thirteen eighty-acre tracts, later selling four of the farms, while he gave the others to his children. After this he accumulated eighteen other eighty-acre farms, in Lucas and Williams counties, Ohio, much of this property being a portion of his estate at the time of his death. He was a stanch Democrat in his political allegiance and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith they reared their large family of children. Anthony Dean, subject of this memoir, was a lad of about eleven years at the time of his parents' removal from New York state to Ohio, and he was reared to manhood on the home farm, in Lucas county, Ohio, and Monroe county, Mich., lying immediately contiguous on the north. In the common schools of the latter state he completed his educational discipline, so far as specific schooling was involved, but he was a man of alert mentality and much self-reliance, so that he made the most of the valuable lessons later gained under the direction of that wisest of all headmasters, experience. He was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, waxing strong in mind and body and also in integrity and honesty of purpose. It is pleasing, now that the picture of his life stands out in clear perspective, to note that he never abated his fealty and allegiance to the great basic art of agriculture, and that through his active identification with the same he attained to marked success. His labors were arduous and unceasing for many years, but he was not denied the fruition and grateful aftermath in the golden evening of his life, while to him were given that objective respect and esteem which ever betoken sterling attributes of character in the one who elicits this popular animus. In 1843 Mr. Dean came to Williams county and settled on a tract of three hundred acres of land which his father had purchased. Practically no improvements had been made on the place, and he set himself vigorously to the task of reclaiming a farm from the forest wilds, each passing year bearing its evidence of progress, so that well cultivated fields and blossoming meadows replaced the wooded glades. He made the best of improvements on the homestead, which now has substantial, modern buildings and shows all other evidences of able and progressive management. At the present time the farm comprises two hundred and two acres, and the property is owned and occupied by Mr. Dean's only living child, Mrs. Bressett. Mr. Dean continued to reside on his fine homestead until his death, which occurred on the 31st of March, 1899. The county lost one of its substantial citizens and honored pioneers when he was thus summoned to his reward, and his name will long be remembered with appreciative regard by the people of the community in which he so long lived and labored to goodly ends. He was a stalwart Republican in politics, having given his allegiance to the party at the time of its organization, and he was a zealous and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On the 18th of November, 1841, Mr. Dean was united in marriage to Miss Ellen McConville, who was born in Ireland, on the 15th of May, 1823, and who came to America when young. She died on the homestead farm, on April 8, 1851, and of the five children of this union the only survivor is Mrs. Mary Allen Bressett. James died December 18, 1842; Abigail, October 13, 1846; James A., October 2, 1847; and William Anthony died in childhood. For his second wife Mr. Dean married Miss Lucinda Starr, their union being solemnized September 30, 1852. She died November 30, 1865, leaving no children. November 30, 1873, Mr. Dean consummated a third marriage, being then united to Mary A. Hodson, who died June 30, 1881, while their only child, Nancy Lavilla, died November 2, 1880, an infant. Mrs. Mary Allen Bressett, the only living child of Mr. Dean, was born on the old homestead farm where she now resides, and after leaving the common schools she continued her educational discipline in the Bryan Academy. On March 5, 1888, she was united in marriage to David F. Bressett, who was born near Montreal, Canada. He is now looking after his business in Leadville, Colo., while Mrs. Bressett looks after the business here. Mrs. Bressett passed thirty years of her life in the far west—Nevada, California and Colorado—and her experiences have been varied and interesting. She is the owner of property in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is interested in mining properties in the west, while she also owns the homestead farm, endeared and hallowed to her through the memories and associations of the past, and also has property in Bryan and Montpelier, Williams county. She is a woman of gracious presence and her attractive home is a center of unreserved hospitality.

WILLIAM M. DENMAN, M. D., one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Williams county, and one of the honored and influential citizens and business men of the thriving little city of West Unity, is a representative of one of the old and prominent families of the Buckeye state, while the ancestral records determine that the family was founded in New England in the early Colonial epoch of our national history. Uriah Denman, grandfather of the Doctor, was born and reared in Vermont, whence he came to Ohio and located in Knox county, as one of its pioneers. He there reclaimed a farm in the midst of the forest and there made his home until death, as did also his wife, Rachel. Daniel and Catherine (Crowley) Morrison, the maternal grandparents of Dr. Denman, were both born in the old Green Mountain State, whence they came to Richland county, Ohio, in an early day, while in 1854 they removed to Fulton county, where Mr. Morrison was engaged in farming until his death, in 1859. His widow long survived him, her death occurring in 1879, in Williams county. Hon. Elisha G. Denman was born in Knox county, Ohio, in 1821, and was there reared to maturity, receiving his education in the common schools of the locality. In 1851 he came to Williams county and purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land in Millcreek township, reclaiming this tract to cultivation and becoming one of the extensive landholders of the county. His entire active career was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he was one of the influential and most highly esteemed citizens of his community, having held various township offices and having served one term as county treasurer, while he also represented Williams county in the State Legislature for two terms. He was a man of excellent intellectual powers and unassailable probity, and no man in the community commanded more unqualified popular confidence. In politics he was a stanch Democrat, and his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church. He died on his farm in Millcreek township in March, 1877. As a young man he married Miss Almira H. Morrison, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1820, and she survived her husband by nearly twenty years, her death occurring, in West Unity, in December, 1896. Of the six children, all sons, two are living. Dr. William M. Denman was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 16th of September, 1845, and his early educational training was secured in the common schools and the high school at West Unity, after which he continued his studies in Adrian College, at Adrian, Mich. He then took up the study of medicine, and in his technical work he had the best of advantages, having completed the prescribed course in Starling Medical College, in Columbus, Ohio, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1870, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was engaged in practice one year in Bridgewater township and then located in Lyons, Fulton county, but in 1872 he came to West Unity, where he has been actively engaged in practice for more than thirty years, while the extensive professional business which he has controlled has not only indicated his ability as a physician and surgeon but has also stood indicatory of the high regard in which he is held in this section. He has also conducted a drug store in West Unity for more than three decades, and has interests in a local merchandising enterprise aside from this. His public spirit has been manifested in the promptness in which he has given his personal and capitalistic support to local enterprises, and he is at the present time president of the West Unity Banking Company and also of the Brady Fire Insurance Company. He is the owner of three farms in Williams county, one of them being an especially fine place of one hundred and sixty acres two miles west of West Unity. For a period of about nine years he was engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile upon an extensive scale. In politics Dr. Denman is a stanch advocate of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, and he was a member of the state Legislature in 1900 and 1901, while in 1905 he was the candidate of his party for state senator from the Thirty-second district, and was elected at the November election. He is an appreciated member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, being identified with the Consistory in Cincinnati; and he is aslo identified with the Knights of Pythias, while both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is a valued member of the Ohio State Medical Society. September 30, 1875, Dr. Denman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Skiles, daughter of John and Sarah (Johnson) Skiles, both of whom died in Huntington, Ind. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Denman.

AMOS R. DEWEES, one of Bryan's most prominent business men and the leading meat dealer of that city, was born at Pennsville, Morgan county, O., December 1, 1856. The Dewees family is of French stock, the name being originally DeWees. The first of the family to come to America was Doctor Dewees, the great-great-grandfather of Amos R. He landed at Philadelphia in 1774, two years prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Colonies, and was for many years a well known practitioner of the Quaker City. James W. Dewees, the grandfather of Amos R. Dewees, was born in Harrisburg, Pa., and when a young man came to Belmont county, O. Jesse Dewees, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Barnesville, Belmont county, March 15, 1832. When still a boy his parents moved to Pennsville, Morgan county, where he grew to manhood. After attending the common schools he learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1860 he removed to a point in Seneca county between Tiffin and Upper Sandusky, where he conducted a shop until June, 1861. After the declaration of war he enlisted at Upper Sandusky as a private of Company H. Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was continuousy with his regiment until the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, when he was taken prisoner within his own lines. After being confined in Libby prison for eight days he was transferred to Andersonville prison, where he was confined for eight months. To those who know the history of that awful prison it is unnecessary to recount in detail what misery he experienced during those, to him, long eight months. From Andersonville he was finally taken to Belle Island, where he was confined for four months, and then he was removed to Milan on the sea coast, where he was exchanged as one of one thousand sick soldiers for a like number of well Confederate soldiers. After being exchanged he was sent to the United States Government Hospital, at Annapolis, and from there, on December 19, 1864, was discharged and sent home, arriving at Pennsville, where his wife had taken the family during his absence, two days before Christmas, and coming as it were from the grave. His health was so shattered that work or business was out of the question for some time. He went to Columbus and was discharged from the service in March, 1865, and on April 12, 1865, started for Bryan. Here he bought a tract of land in Bridgewater township and, building a log blacksmith shop on it, soon after began to work at his trade. In March, 1869, he moved to a point three miles southeast of Bryan, where he purchased and operated a saw-mill until November, 1874. He then removed to Bryan, having traded his mill business for town property. In 1876 he removed to Montpelier, where he bought what is now known as the old Good saw-mill, which he operated until 1880, when he removed to Fremont, Ind., where he completed a large job of sawing and then sold the mill. In 1882 he removed to Jonesville, Mich., and died there August 12, 1892. He never recovered his health, being practically an invalid from the time of his return from the war. He married Miss Charlotta Rainey, born in Lorain county, O., April 5, 1834, the daughter of John Rainey. The Raineys were New England people, coming from Lynn, Mass., to Lorain county in an early day. Mrs. Dewees is now a resident of Angola, Ind. The following are the children of Jesse Dewees and wife: John B., of Chicago; Amos R., Annie, the wife of Mr. Abbott, of Kewanee, Ill.; James W., who was accidentally killed at Cincinnati on May 10, 1892; Mary, now Mrs. Albert Butz, of Angola, Ind., and Jessie, deceased. Amos R. Dewees attended the common schools of Pennsville and the old Brandeberry school in Bridgewater township. For several years he worked at various occupations and in September, 1879, began to learn the butcher business in Bryan with H. B. Robison. Six months later he took a position with H. B. Letcher, a produce merchant, with whom he remained until 1880. He then returned to the butcher business in the shop of D. C. Brownell, of Bryan, where he remained until March 18, 1884, when he bought the business. His capital at the time did not exceed two hundred dollars. In 1892 he sold the business and took a position in the Farmers' National Bank of Bryan, and on January 1, 1893, was elected teller of that bank, and a year later assistant cashier. On March 19, 1894, he resigned his position in the bank to resume the meat business, buying back his old stand. In 1900 he erected the present handsome business house on Main street, near the public square, one of the most substantial in the city. This buiding is a brick, two-story structure, the dimensions of which are thirty-two by eighty feet. The floor of the meat market is finished in Mosaic tiling, the wainscoting, three and one-half feet high, of opolitic glass tiling, and the fixtures corresponding to this finish. The refrigerator has a capacity of sixty tons of ice. The building is lighted both by electricity and gas, the latter being manufactured by his own gas plant. The business of this establishment amounts annually to thirty thousand dollars. Mr. Dewees is a charter member of the Bryan Lodge Knights of Pythias, vice-president of the Union Trust and Savings Bank of Bryan, and a stockholder in the First National Bank of Bryan and the National Bank of Commerce of Toledo. On August 18, 1878, Mr. Dewees married Miss Emma Oxenider, born in Bryan, January 14, 1860, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Schatzer) Oxenider, old and highly respected citizens of Bryan. To this union the following children have been born: Harry C., born September 20, 1879, who married Rachel Russel, the daughter of William Russel, of Bryan, and by her has had one child, Helen by name; Vernon C., born October 20, 1881, and died November 4, 1900; Fred C., born March 12, 1882, who married Gay Rosendaul, the daughter of James Rosendaul, of Bryan, by whom he has had one son, Amos R., Jr.; and Amos R., Jr., born October 24, 1886.

JONATHAN DICK, a prosperous and popular representative of the agricultural industry in Jefferson township, is a member of one of the pioneer families of Williams county, where he has passed his entire life. He was born on the parental homestead, in Jefferson township, on the 7th of February, 1848, being a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Tressler) Dick, the former of whom was born in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, while the latter was born in Perry county, Pa. Philip Dick came to America when twenty-one years of age, being accompanied by his father, George Dick, and they came direct to Williams county. Prior to Philip and George's coming a brother of George, by the name of Adam, had emigrated to America in 1834, residing for a time in Buffalo, N. Y., while later he located in the state of Wisconsin. Abraham, the second son of George Dick, learned the carpenter trade in Buffalo, N. Y., and in 1836 he came to Ohio and located in Richland county, where he remained about one year, at the expiration of which time he came to Williams county and took up his residence in Jefferson township, where he passed the remainder of his life, having attained the patriarchial age of eighty-six years. Philip Dick secured forty acres of wild and heavily timbered land in section 8, Jefferson township, residing on this place until 1852, and he eventually became the owner of more than five hundred acres of land in this township, reclaiming much of the same to cultivation and has become one of the substantial farmers of the county. He now resides in Bryan, O., and retired from active business. His wife passed away on the 16th of January, 1900. She died a member of the Lutheran church. Of their thirteen children nine are living, namely: Jonathan, Elizabeth, George, Lucy, Caroline, Arminda, Hattie, Martha and Rosa. Jonathan Dick secured a common school education and continued to be associated in the work of the home farm until 1874, when he initiated his independent career. He was married in 1876 and soon afterward settled on his present farm, having erected his substantial residence in 1878 and his barn in 1884. His farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and he personally reclaimed seventy-seven acres of the same, the land having been heavily timbered. He has been very energetic and progressive as a farmer and stock grower and his success has been excellent in his chosen province of endeavor, while he has also worked more or less at the carpenter's trade. He is a Democrat in politics and both he and his wife are valued members of the Lutheran church in their home township. On October 6th, 1876, Mr. Dick was united in marriage to Miss Lenetta Koch, daughter of Moses Koch, who was a pioneer farmer of this county, and she died in August, 1880, leaving two children—Roy E. who married Miss Ollie Dietrich and resides in Bryan, this county; and Bertha P., who died at the age of four years. In September, 1883, Mr. Dick married Mrs. Emma Mercer, widow of John Mercer and a daughter of William Barnhart. Of their eight children two are deceased, Harlan and Wilbur. The surviving children are Florence E., Wildie F., Lena E., Leona E., Harvey L. and Waldo A., all of whom have been afforded good educational advantages.

PHILIP DIETRICH, one of the substantial farmers of Pulaski township, is a worthy representative of that sterling German-American type of citizenship which has had so beneficent an influence in furthering the industrial and civic progress and prosperity of the republic. Mr. Dietrich was born in Prussia, on the 18th of October, 1834, and is a son of Frederich and Minnie (Coldwater) Dietrich, who passed their entire lives in Prussia, the father having been a postman or mail carrier in earlier life and later a successful farmer and stock grower. This worthy couple became the parents of five children, and after the death of his first wife Mr. Dietrich married Kate Leber, who bore him two children. Three of the sons came to America: Charles, about 1850, and Philip and Henry, in 1860, the first named settling in Pennsylvania, while Henry located in Huron county, O., whence he later removed to Williams county, purchasing a farm in section 31, Pulaski township, where he passed the remainder of his life, having been one of the highly esteemed and prosperous agriculturists of this section. Philip Dietrich availed himself of the advantages of the excellent schools of his fatherland, where he was reared to the life of the farm, and he was about twenty-six years of age when he accompanied his brother Henry on his emigration to America, as noted. He passed the first two years in Erie county, Pa., with his brother Charles, and then located in Huron county, O., where he was engaged in farming until 1881, when he came to Williams county and purchased a tract of one hundred and forty-eight acres in section 31, Pulaski township, near that of his brother Henry. The greater portion of the land was wild at the time he took possession of the same, and he personally cleared twenty-six acres, while he made excellent improvements on the homestead, of which he eventually sold eighty acres, so that his present attractive farm comprises sixty-eight acres, improved with good buildings and devoted to diversified agriculture and stock raising. He has won independence through earnest and persistent effort in connection with the great basic industry on which rests the welfare of the nation, and to him is accorded the unqualified regard of the people of the community in which he has so long maintained his home. Politically Mr. Dietrich is a stanch Democrat, but he has never sought public office, though loyal to all the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and both he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. March 7, 1862, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Dietrich to Miss Nettie Oldmaker, daughter of Daniel and Dora Oldmaker, both of whom were born in Prussia, the latter dying there in 1853. In 1855 Mr. Oldmaker married again and came to America and settled in Huron county, O. Mr. Oldmaker's second wife was Nettie Mitz, who survives him and still resides in Ohio. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich the following brief record is incorporated: Henry is a carpenter and builder by vocation and resides at Elkhart, Ind.; Philip is a carpenter and farmer and resides in Bryan, O.; Lizzie is the wife of John Jager, who resides near Montpelier, O.; Minnie is the wife of George Goller, of Defiance county; Charles is a railroad fireman, residing in Elkhart, Ind.; William and August are deceased; Albert, who married Miss Cora Musser, is farming the old homestead for his father; and Dora is the wife of Francis Witzerman of Bryan, O.

SIDNEY PALMER DODGE, the popular proprietor of the Dodge House, the leading hotel of West Unity, comes of stanch old Puritan stock, the original American ancestors having been two brothers, Robert and William Dodge, who settled in historic old Salem, Mass., in 1629. Sidney P. Dodge was born in Lafayette township, Medina county, O., on the 17th of November, 1851, and is a son of Joel Palmer Dodge, who was born in Cortland county, N. Y., on the 8th of November, 1820, being a son of Joel Dodge, who was born in Colchester, Mass., in 1784, while the same town was the birthplace of his wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Cutler and whose year of nativity was 1787. At the age of thirteen Joel Dodge accompanied his parents on their removal to Bennington, Vt., where he was reared to manhood and where his marriage was solemnized. He removed thence to Cortland county,

N. Y., where he remained until 1839, when he came with his family to Ohio and located in Wayne county, and in 1853 he came to Williams county, locating at Williams Center, where he died in September, 1863, his wife having passed away in 1858. He was engaged in farming after coming to Ohio and was a man of integrity and honor. He was a son of Benjamin and Tabitha Dodge, both of whom passed the closing years of their lives in Cortland county, N. Y. Hanna (Cutler) Dodge was a daughter of Zachariah and Prudence (Drake) Cutler, who passed their entire lives in New England. Joel Palmer Dodge was educated in the common schools of Cortland county, N. Y., and accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio. In Seville, Medina county, this state, October 17, 1843, he married Miss Mary Ann Vincent, who was born in Cortland county, N. Y., October 13, 1820, being a daughter of John J. and Mary (Daniels) Vincent, both of whom were born in New England, the former on the 9th of February, 1792, and the latter on the 10th of October, 1796, and both passed the closing days of their lives in Lagrange, Lorain county, O., having come to this state in the pioneer days. They became the parents of eight children, of whom five are yet living. Joel P. Dodge came to Williams county in 1853, locating in Williams Center, in April of that year. Here he followed his trade, that of blacksmith, for many years. In 1884 he removed to Nemaha county, Neb., and on the 5th of June, 1888, he located in West Unity, in the old Ohio county where he had so long made his home, and here he still resides, being now retired from active labors. His devoted wife passed away April 13, 1905, having been a member of the Baptist church, with which he also was formerly identified, now holding membership in the Christian church. He is a Democrat in politics and is affiliated with Superior Lodge No. 179, Free and Accepted Masons, and Northwest Chapter No. 45, Royal Arch Masons. Joel P. and Mary A. (Vincent) Dodge became the parents of five children: Emma Jane, Mary Elizabeth, Sidney Palmer, Ida (deceased in infancy), and Clara Eliza. Sidney P. Dodge was about two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Williams county, and he was reared and educated in Williams Center, where he fully availed himself of the advantages of the public schools, while he learned the blacksmith trade under the effective direction of his father, becoming a skilled artisan. He followed his trade until 1878, when he engaged in the saw milling business at Williams Center, following this line of enterprise until 1888, on June 5th of which year he came to West Unity and engaged in the hotel business. On the 2d of the following August his building and contents of same were practically etirely destroyed by fire, and he then erected his present substantial and attractive hotel building, known as the Dodge House, which he has since conducted most successfully, this being the best and most popular hotel in the town and catering to a representative patronage, while the genial host and his wife have a legion of friends among the traveling public, as well as locally. In politics Mr. Dodge maintains an independent attitude, and he is public-spirited and progressive, ever ready to lend his aid in every worthy movement for the general good of the community. He served one term as a member of the village council of West Unity. He is affiliated with Superior Lodge, No. 179, Free and Accepted Masons at West Unity; Northwest Chapter, No. 45, Royal Arch Masons, at Bryan; Defiance Commandery, No. 30, Knights Templar, at Defiance; Zenobia Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in Toledo; and Unity Lodge, No. 158, Order of the Eastern Star, in West Unity, of which last organization his wife and daughter also are members. In May, 1899, Mr. Dodge became a member and musician in the First Division, Second Battalion of the Ohio Naval Reserve, and he still retains his membership in the same. December 4, 1873, Mr. Dodge was united in marriage to Miss Joanna A. Cratsenberg, who was born near Pope's Mills, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., January 2, 1855, being a daughter of Abram and Hannah (Breckenridge) Cratsenberg, who came from her native county to Williams county, O., about 1867. Here the mother died in October, 1878, and the father in September of the following year. They had four children, of whom only two are living—Frank, who resides in Columbus, O., and Mrs. Dodge. Mr. Cratsenberg was a saddler by trade, and followed this vocation many years, later being engaged in farming. In 1863 he enlisted in Company A, Fourteenth New York heavy artillery, with which he served until the close of the civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge became the parents of four children: Roy is now a conductor on the Hocking Valley Railroad; Maud remains at the parental home; the third child died in infancy; and Sidney died at the age of two and one-half years.

JOSEPH W. DOUGLAS, a well-to-do-farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Williams county, O., was born in Stark county, O., November 14, 1850. He is the second son of James and Mary (Nixon) Douglas, both natives of England. After his marriage in his native country, James Douglas, wife and one child, emigrated to the United States and located first in Stark county, O., in 1846. Five years later he removed to Richland county, O., there he bought an eighty-acre farm, and selling it, bought one of one hundred and twenty acres. He disposed of that and, in 1865, he, with his family, moved to Williams county, Ohio, where he bought a fine farm of two hundred acres in Millcreek township, where he and his wife spent the rest of their days. By occupation he was a successful farmer, and in politics an earnest Republican. He died on the home farm on August 1st, 1890. His wife died February 24, 1902. They were the parents of ten children, of whom eight are yet living. Joseph W. was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools. He came with his parents to Williams county, and has resided in the county ever since. Until 1883 he resided in Millcreek and Madison townships, and since then he has resided on his farm, located in Bridgewater township. He was township trustee three years, and as infirmary director he has given very general satisfaction, as well as in the office of trustee. He is a staunch Republican in politics, a member of the Superior Lodge No. 269, Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are members of the Liberal United Brethren Church. November 2, 1872, he was married to Miss Florence J. Andrews, of Holmes county, Ohio. They have no children. Mrs. Douglas was the eldest daughter of Silas C. and Catherine (Russell) Andrews, both natives of Ohio. The former was born in Mahoning county, and the latter in Muskingum county. They were married in Morrow county, O., February 11, 1851. They moved to Fulton county in 1861, and in 1864 moved to Williams county, locating in Brady township. Four years later they moved to a farm in Madison township. January, 1881, they moved to Pioneer, where in April, 1881, his wife died. Mr. Andrews died September 15, 1887. He was a farmer, in politics a Republican, and he and his wife were members of the Liberal United Brethren church. All of the four children born to them are still living, Florence Douglas in Bridgewater township, Amanda Thompson in Pulaski township, Williams county, Ohio; James N. in Wichita, Kansas, and William S. in Oklahoma.

WILLIAM DRAKE, a prominent farmer and real estate man of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born on a farm near Shelby, Richland county, O., on April 1, 1839. He is descended from a prominent and wealthy English family, whose history dates back as far as the year 1560, and of which Sir Francis Drake was a conspicuous member. The difficulty of proving its claim to the vast fortune in England belonging to the Drakes has, up to the present time, kept the American branch of the family from securing its share. The grandparents of William Drake were Nathaniel and Nancy (Hougland) Drake, both natives of Pennsylvania, where the former lived and died. Of the six children born to these parents two died in their native state. The names of those who lived to maturity were: William, John, Elizabeth and Jane, all of whom are now dead. In 1825 Nancy Drake, with her four children, removed to Ohio, locating in Stark county. A year later she removed to Wayne county, where she resided for five years. While living in this county William and John Drake, her sons, contracted to clear and fence a fifty-acre tract of land and to split five thousand rails in payment of an eighty acre tract in Jackson township, Richland county, which finally became the property of John Drake, and on which he and his mother settled in 1831. Nancy Drake was of Scotch-Irish extraction, and a pioneer in every sense of the word. She died at the home of her son in 1855, aged sixty-seven years. On March 29, 1838, John Drake was wedded to Miss Susannah Henry, who is still living on the old homestead near Shelby in her ninety-first year. To these parents there were born the following children: William, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, the wife of James Wareham; Sarah Jane, deceased, who married Aaron Rambo; Daniel, who married Miss Mary Jane Trist; James, who became the husband of Eva Roush; Jeremiah, who married Mary Roush; Mary Ellen, the wife of George H. Smith; Nancy H., the wife of Jacob Rowe; Susannah and Samuel. John Drake was a successful farmer, an earnest Democrat and a devout member of the Reformed church. William Drake, the son of John and Susannah (Henry) Drake, was reared on the home farm and educated in the country schools and the graded schools of Shelby. After teaching one year in his native county he came to Williams county, in August, 1860, and settled on the land that his father had purchased just one mile north of Montpelier. Here for some years he chopped wood on his farm during the summer months and taught school in winter. In 1863 he returned to Richland county, and in May of that year was married. In August following he brought his wife to Williams county, where he established his permanent home and engaged in farming, teaching only the first winter. As he was a teacher, and as there were no attorneys nearer than Bryan, the people of his neighborhood often called on him to represent them in the justice's court, the result being that he met with unusual success. For more than thirty years he served in the capacity of collector, and for nine years as justice of the peace of Superior township. Although he has had an office in town for the past twenty-five years, he did not quit the farm until twelve years ago. Mr. Drake was one of the organizers of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank (now the Montpelier National Bank), and for five years served in the capacity of cashier, and when the bank bought what is now the Montpelier National Bank he was president of that institution, until he disposed of his interest in the bank. Since he disposed of his banking interests he has been engaged in the real estate and brokerage business. In 1900 he was elected mayor, serving one term, and at present he is a member of the village council. On the farm given to him by his father he has been very successful, having accumulated quite a competency. He has done much to improve the town, having built a substantial residence, the buildings in four large brick blocks, and having bought, repaired and sold many other buildings. In politics he is a Democrat and in religious belief a disciple of Robert Ingersoll. In May, 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Sidney A. Flora, born near Shelby in 1844, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Stine) Flora, both natives of Virginia. Mrs. Drake died twenty-one years ago, leaving the following six children: Martin L., engaged in railroading and residing at Montpelier; Oscar Willis, living on the old homestead; Effie Grace, at home with her father; Daisy Victor, deceased; Bertha Gail, the wife of Jacob Grundish, who resides at the parental home, and Clara Ethel, the wife of Claude Blue, a stonecutter of Montpelier.

WILLIAM EASTERDAY, a successful farmer and thoroughbred stock breeder of Northwest township, was born in that township, in Williams county, O., on March 2, 1869. He is the son of Lewis and

Elizabeth (Dauber) Easterday, both natives of Germany. Lewis Easterday came to Williams county, O., in 1866, and settled on the farm now owned by his son, William Easterday, most of which was cleared by him. By occupation he was a farmer and a doctor, in politics a Democrat and a member of the German Lutheran church. He died February 23, 1893, aged seventy-nine and one-half years. Elizabeth (Dauber) Easterday was born in Rainbaiern, Germany, March 3, 1828, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. David J. Schaeffer, near Fremont, Steuben county, Ind., September 4, 1905, in her seventy-eighth year When she was nine years of age her father died, leaving her mother a widow with three children. She and her younger brother, Peter, came to America in 1850 and located at Williamsburg, N. Y. She was united in marriage to Lewis Easterday, May 14, 1851, at Williamsburg, N. Y. To this union were born nine children—five boys and four girls, seven of whom are living. Besides these there are thirty-five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In 1852 Lewis Esterday and wife moved to Tiffin, O., in 1864 to Ann Arbor, Mich., and in 1866 to Williams county, O. Mrs. Easterday resided with her son, William, on the old home farm in Northwest township from Mr. Easterday's death until 1899, after which she resided most of the time with her youngest daughter, Mrs. Caroline Stauger, at Bryan, O. She was converted at the age of thirteen in the Reform church and trusted in her Lord through life. She was a good mother and neighbor, and left many lasting impressions upon her children and acquaintances. She was laid to rest in the Billingstown cemetery, Williams county, O. William Esterday grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education by attending the common schools of the county. He has chosen farming as his life work and is the owner of seventy-seven acres of fine and valuable land. In the breeding of Shropshire sheep he takes a deep interest, making it a success, as is the case with all of his undertakings. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren church. On February 28, 1899, he was wedded to Miss Nellie Kintigh, the daughter of William and Susan (Shaffer) Kintigh, the former born in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1824, and the latter in Montgomery county, O., in 1834. In 1865 they came to Northwest township, Williams county, and located on a tract of eighty acres, which he at once proceeded to clear and cultivate. Here he died in 1899, his wife having died ten years earlier. At Evansport and Ney, Defiance county, O., he followed merchandising, but after coming to Williams county he devoted all of his time to farming. In politics he was a Republican, having served for years as justice of the peace. In religious matters he and his wife were identified with the United Brethren church. Of the nine children born to these parents eight are still living. Mr. Easterday is a Prohibitionist and strongly advocates the principles of that party. He and his wife have no children.

JAMES A. ELDER, proprietor of the Central Livery Barn and a progressive business man of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born on the farm two miles northeast of that city on December 31, 1874. He is the son of Franklin and Caroline (Arnold) Elder, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. His grandfather, Mark Elder, was one of the pioneer settlers of Bryan, having come from Wayne county, O., to Williams county, when Franklin Elder was a boy and before the era of railroads. He owned a farm adjoining the corporation line of Bryan and followed, for a time, stock buying. Later he engaged in the ice business. He died at his home early in the nineties, having reached a ripe old age. Franklin Elder was born near Harrisburg, Pa., on March 20, 1843. He first engaged in the manufacture of brick and followed that occupation for twenty-two years. While engaged in the brick business he also conducted successfully his farm interests. At the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in Company H of the Third Ohio Cavalry and served two years, a part of that time in a Confederate prison. For seven years he held the office of superintendent of the County Infirmary, having been elected to that office as a Republican, and for quite a number of years he was trustee of Pulaski township. He is now practically living a retired life on his well-improved farm of ninety-five acres two miles east of Bryan. His wife was born in Bryan and is the daughter of George Arnold, a blacksmith by trade and a distiller by occupation, who died twenty-seven years ago. The following children have been born to them: Carrie, who is deceased; Blanche, the wife of Hervey Lindsey, a farmer living three miles northeast of Bryan; James A., and Luella, the wife of Melvin McKarns, a farmer living two and one-half miles northeast of Bryan. James A. Elder grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated at Bryan, Pulaski, Shawnee Mound, Mo., and the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind. After leaving school in 1894 he took charge of the home farm while his father was at the Infirmary and remained there until 1900, when he purchased the livery business of Joel Heverly, of Bryan. Here, in addition to a general livery business, he deals largely in buying and selling horses. In 1891 he bought a livery stable in Pioneer, this county, which he managed two years and then sold. On April 1, of the following year, he purchased the Fayette Livery and Sale Stable of Fayette, Fulton county, and on April 1, 1904, the business at Alvordton, running it about two months. On May 18 of the same year he purchased the livery and bus line of Montpelier, O., and sold it in April following. On November 1, 1900, he was united in marriage to Miss Pearl, the daughter of Dr. Samuel Keiser, of Bryan. She is identified with the Progressive Brethren church.

HARMAN SHIPMAN ELY, a successful farmer and merchant of Cooney, O., is a native of Northumberland county, Pa., where he was born on August 4, 1859. He is the son of Caleb and Catherine (Shipman) Ely, both natives of Pennsylvania, and both born in the year 1819. His paternal grandfather had twelve children, all of whom had families. His maternal grandfather, Harman Shipman, was a native of Pennsylvania. In an early day, after the death of his wife, he removed to Fulton county, O., and there ended his days. Caleb Ely was reared on a farm and received a fair common school education. In 1864 he came to Fulton county, O., and seven years later to Northwest township, Williams county, locating on a farm of forty acres, where he died in 1896, his wife having died the previous year. Harman S. Ely grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools of his home county. He chose farming as his life work and now owns a fine and highly productive farm of one hundred and seven acres, including the homestead. In 1896 he embarked in the mercantile business in the village of Cooney. In 1904 he formed a partnership at the same place with Frank Malcolm. In politics he is an active Republican, and at present holds the office of township treasurer. In 1881 he was joined in wedlock with Miss Delay Mettler. To this union there have been born two children, Edna, now the wife of Grover Hyland, and resides in Northwest township; and Zorah Gay. Mr. Ely is actively identified with Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Northwest Grange.

CHARLES M. ESTRICH, a prosperous farmer and highly respected citizen of Florence township, Williams county, O., is the son of Peter Estrich, mention of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. He was born on the farm which he now owns, on December 1, 1854. Here he grew to manhood and attended the district schools, receiving a fair common school education. On his farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres he follows general farming and stock raising. Being a man of push and enterprise, he has met with unusual success in his business. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation and the buildings that have been erected on it are of a substantial character. His thorough knowledge of stock, enables him to conduct that part of his business in a profitable way. In politics he has always taken a deep interest, believing it to be the duty of every good citizen to interest himself in the management of public affairs. In religious matters he is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. On March 24, 1878, he chose as his life partner Miss Sarah Allomong, the daughter of John and Rachel (King) Allomong, mentioned elsewhere in this work. To Charles M. Estrich and wife there have been born four children, two sons and two daughters. Ella C., the eldest, was born on February 11, 1879. After completing the common school course of study, she graduated from the Tri-State Normal, at Angola, Ind. She is the widow of George Stackhouse and has one child, Wavel by name. Willis A., the second child, born October 23, 1880, is also a graduate of the Angola Normal. Although he has been teaching school, he contemplates taking up the study of law in the near future. Clark M., born April 11, 1883, and John L., born September 29, 1885, are at present attending the Normal School at Angola. Both have taught school with marked success. It is evident that Mr. Estrich is determined to give all of his children a liberal education, the better to fit them for the active duties of life.

JOHN ESTRICH has made his home in Williams county from the time of his birth, representing a period of more than three score years, and he is one of the representative farmers of Florence township, where he has a well improved farmstead of seventy-nine acres. He was born in Brady township, this county, on the 30th of August, 1843, and is a son of Peter and Katherine Elizabeth (Limbert) Estrich, both of whom were born in Germany, whence they immigrated to America in 1841, landing in the city of Baltimore, from which point they went to Pittsburg, whence they came to Columbiana county, O., where they remained about one year, at the expiration of which they came to Williams county, taking up their residence in Brady township. About a year later, in 1843, they removed to Florence township and settled on the farm now owned by their son, Charles M. The father here reclaimed a large amount of land from the virgin forest, bringing to bear much energy and judgment and in due time reaping the generous rewards of his efforts and strenuous labors. He passed to his reward in March, 1881, and his cherished wife passed away in 1890. They became the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living. The eldest son, Jacob, met his death while serving as a soldier in the Civil war, having been a member of an Ohio regiment. Peter Estrich originally exercised his franchise in support of the Democratic party, but when Lincoln was nominated for the presidency he espoused the cause of the Republican party, in whose ranks he ever afterward remained. Both he and his wife were earnest and consistent members of the German Methodist Episcopal church. Reared on the pioneer farm, John Estrich, subject of this sketch, found no lack of steady occupation during the days of his boyhood and youth, while to the common schools of the period he is indebted for the educational advantages which were his in the meanwhile. He continued to be actively associated in the work of the home farm until the time of the Civil war, and when twenty years of age, on the 23d of January, 1864, he enlisted as a private in Company C, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he was in active service thereafter until the close of the war, having taken part in the Atlanta campaign and having been with Sherman on the ever memorable "March to the Sea," and he was mustered out July 12, 1865, duly receiving his honorable discharge. Ever since the termination of his military career Mr. Estrich has been found valiantly arrayed in the ranks of a noble army of yeomen, having been consecutively identified with agricultural pursuits in his native county. His attractive homestead, comprising seventy-nine acres, is well improved and under effective cultivation, being one of the fine farm properties of Florence township. He is held in high regard personally, and also as a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of the county, and is a ciitzen of worth and reliability. In politics he gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church. February 20, 1870, stands as the date of Mr. Estrich's marriage to Miss Rachel Ann Mark, who was born in Columbiana county, O., April 23, 1849, being a daughter of Christian and Catherine (Hess) Mark, both of whom were born and reared in Germany. After their immigration to the United States they lived for an interval in the state of New York, then coming to Ohio and taking up their abode in Columbiana county, whence they came to Williams county in September, 1849, settling in Florence township, where Mr. Mark continued engaged in farming until his death, which occurred March 8, 1901, at which time he was eighty-nine years of age. His wife died September 2, 1890, at the age of seventy-one years, ten months and twenty-one days. Of their eleven children eight are living. Mr. and Mrs. Estrich became the parents of three children, of whom the first died in infancy, as did also the second, Mary Matilda. Charles Henry, who was born February 26, 1876, completed the curriculum of the public schools, and thereafter continued his studies in the Tri-State Normal College, at Angola, Ind., and the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, O., in which latter institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1900. He was employed four years as a teacher in the Tri-State Normal College, having previously taught for a number of terms in the public schools, beginning his pedagogic career when but fifteen years of age. He graduated in the department of Literature, Science and Arts at the celebrated University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Mich., and is now teaching in the State Normal School at Mount Pleasant, Mich. He married Miss Florence Moore, of Angola, Ind., and they have one son, Arthur Raymond, born January 19, 1904.

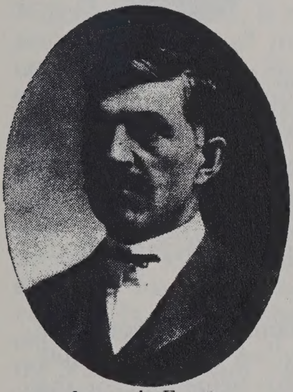
CHARLES F. EYSTER, the competent Recorder of Williams county, O., was born in Steuben county, Ind., on September 6, 1873. He is the son of Saeger S. Eyster, born in Stark county, O., June 26, 1842. His grandparents were William H. and Mary (Saeger) Eyster. William H. Eyster was a carpenter by trade, but after coming to Williams county, in 1854, he followed farming, and died on his farm the following year. In 1861 S. S. Eyster enlisted in Company C of the Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served under General Buell during the early part of the war. At Decatur, Ala., he was taken prisoner by a troop of Confederate cavalry, but was shortly afterwards paroled and exchanged. Soon after his exchange he was taken sick and sent to Camp Chase, Columbus, O., where he was made wardmaster and acted in that capacity until the expiration of his time of service. On his return from the war he followed the carperters' trade until 1878, when he engaged in the manufacture and sale of the Fulton washing machine and the Bass churn. His residence is now at Edon, where he deals in agricultural implements and practices veterinary surgery, a profession that he has followed ever since his return from the army. In politics he has been quite prominent, having held several local offices. Quite recently he erected a fine two-story frame business block, the dimensions of which are thirty-five by ninety feet. On March 6, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Lechleidner of Steuben county, Ind., and by her has had six children, five of whom are yet living. Those living are: Alice, the wife of William F. Kaiser of the Edon Hardware company; Charles F.; Harvey, a street-car conductor of Kansas City, Mo.; Hollie, a druggist of Edon, and Jesse E., who is employed in his father's store. Charles F. Eyster was educated in the public schools and was engaged for a time with his father in the sale of agricultural implements, being practically in charge of the business. In 1900 he was elected corporation and township clerk at Edon and two years later re-elected. In the fall of 1902 he was elected recorder of Williams county, taking his office in September, 1903, after resigning the clerkship of the corporation of Edon and of the township. He enjoys the honor of being the youngest recorder that Williams county has ever had. On April 11, 1900, he was wedded to Miss Leafy Slough, a native of Madison township, Williams county, the daughter of D. S. and Lavina (Sumner) Slough, who were among the early settlers of the county, her grandfather being a pioneer. Charles F. Eyster and wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church. At the election of 1905, Mr. Eyster was re-elected to the position of county recorder by a plurality of 1,144, leading all other candidates on his ticket.

EDWARD S. EYSTER, a retired farmer of Edon, Williams county, O., is a native of Stark county, O., where he was born on November 15, 1845. His parents were William H. and Marie (Saeger) Eyster, mention of whom will be found in the succeeding memoir. Edward S. Eyster grew to manhood on a farm, was educated in the common schools of Williams and Fulton counties, and has followed general farming and stock raising all of his life, making a specialty of raising draft horses. Until twelve years ago he was identified with the Republican party, and since then he has been an enthusiastic Prohibitionist. He has held the offices of district and township supervisor, the former for the past twenty years. He and family are members of the Evangelical church. On December 12, 1872, he chose as his helpmeet on life's journey Miss Mary Elizabeth Enfield, a native of Holmes county, O., where she was born April 24, 1850, and the daughter of Frederick and Julia (Shoup) Enfield, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Enfield were married in Holmes county and came to Steuben county, Ind., in 1854, where he died on June 12, 1893, his wife having died in 1883. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Eyster were both natives of Pennsylvania, where they lived and died. Her father was a farmer, a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the United Brethren church. Of the eight children born to them three are still living. To Edward S. Eyster and wife there have been born the following five children: Arlow E. was born November 15, 1873, educated in the common schools. He is a farmer by occupation, residing in Richland township, Steuben county, Ind., where he owns a farm of seventy-nine acres. On April 8, 1896, he was wedded to Miss Cora Shafer of Steuben county, and by her has had two children, Florence and Elven. The second child, Leona E., was born on December 22, 1875, and received a common school education. On January 22, 1902, she became the wife of Elton Gamber. These parents have one child, Edith. Ora E., the third child, was born October 20, 1877, educated in the district schools and married to Miss Lizzie Kiess of Williams county, on March 7, 1900. He is engaged in farming and owns seventy-nine acres of land in Richland township, Steuben county, Ind. To him and wife there have been born the following children: Isaac and Ernest. Clara E., the fourth child, was born in Steuben county, Ind., on November 17, 1884, and received her education in the county schools. Edith E., the youngest child, was born on October 28, 1890, and is now a student in the Edon high school.

SAMUEL S. EYSTER, a successful agricultural implement dealer of Edon, Williams county, O., is a native of Stark county, O., where he was born on June 26, 1842. His grandfather, William Eyster, was a native of Pennsylvania who removed from his native state to Ohio in pioneer days, locating on a farm near Minerva, Stark county, and there spent the remainder of his days, engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. Julia (Hinkle) Eyster, his wife, died on the home farm at the venerable age of ninety-six years. The maternal grandparents of Samuel S. Eyster were Samuel and Barbara (Leichten-Walter) Saeger, both natives of Pennsylvania. After the death of her husband Mrs. Saeger removed to Canton, O., and died there at a ripe old age. Samuel S. Eyster is the son of William and Mary (Saeger) Eyster, both natives of Pennsylvania. William Eyster came to Stark county, O., with his parents when quite young, and in 1851 removed to Fulton county, where he remained four years. In 1855 he came to Williams county and located in Florence township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, four miles northwest of Edon. While a young man he learned the carpenter trade and followed that avocation in connection with farming. The year following his removal to Florence township, he and son and two daughters died within the space of six weeks. He was a Democrat in politics, having held several minor offices in Stark county, and with his wife was a member of the Lutheran church. After his death his widow, who still resides on the old homestead at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, united first with the German Methodist church and afterwards with the Methodist Episcopal church. To these parents there were born seven children, of whom four are yet living. The two sons living are the subject of this sketch and Edward, a resident of Edon. Samuel S. Eyster grew to manhood on the parental farm and received a limited education in the common schools of the county, which he subsequently supplemented by private study. Until 1860 he worked on the farm, and then learned the carpenter trade.

In 1861 he enlisted in Company C of the Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served for three years. For fifteen months of that time he acted as ward-master of the general hospital at Columbus, O. All of his spare time while serving in the army was devoted to study and to the practice of penmanship. After his return from the war he resumed his trade, plying it diligently and profitably for some years. After he reached the age of twenty-three years he practiced veterinary surgery very successfully for eighteen years, receiving his license directly from the State. Of the homestead farm sixty acres now belong to Mr. Eyster. In 1875 he removed to Edon, where for the past eighteen years he has been actively and profitably engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, wagons, buggies, etc. His trade is not confined to the immediate neighborhood, but extends to all parts of Williams county. Notwithstanding his extreme activity along business lines, he has found time to devote to public matters, having served for years on the town council and on the school board. He is an Odd Fellow, a Regulator and a membrer of the Grand Army of the Republic. When sixteen years old he joined the Methodist Episcopal church, and ever since that time he has been an active and faithful member of that denomination, serving for years as class-leader and chorister. In March, 1869, he was united in the bonds of wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Lechleidner, the daughter of David and Rebecca (Ole) Lechleidner, both natives of Pennsylvania, who removed first to Medina county, O., and twelve years later to Steuben county, Ind., where the former died on June 1, 1897, and the latter on July 19, 1901. To Samuel S. Eyster and wife there have been born the following children: Alice, the wife of William Kaiser; Willie, who died at the age of three years; Charles, recorder of Williams county; Harvey, street car conductor of Kansas City, Mo.; Holly, of Edon; Jesse, with his father in the implement business, and Iva and Orville, both still at home.

FRANK WILLIAM FABER, a prosperous farmer of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in Seneca county, O., August 2, 1859. He is the son of Jacob and Caroline (Luthart) Faber, both natives of Germany. After their marriage they emigrated to the United States and came directly to Ohio, locating in Seneca county in 1850. Five years later they removed to Putnam county, where Jacob Faber died in 1860. He was a farmer by occupation, a wagonmaker by trade, a Democrat in politics, and with his wife a devout member of the German Lutheran church. His widow afterwards married John Ruff and resided in Putnam county until 1871, when she removed with her husband to Williams county, and died there in 1880. To Jacob Faber and wife there were born six children, four of whom are yet living. Frank William Faber grew to manhood on a farm and received such an education as the common schools of his day afforded. He was twelve years old when he came to Williams county. After reaching his majority he purchased a tract of eighty acres in Florence township, a part of the farm that he now owns. Later he purchased an additional forty acres, making a total of one hundred and twenty acres in the farm. After clearing the land he erected substantial buildings on it, and today has one of the most highly productive farms in the county. In addition to general farming he is largely interested in stock-raising. Being a man of push and enterprise, it is not surprising that he is quite successful in his line. For two years he served as township assessor and for seven years as township trustee. In politics he has always been actively identified with the Democratic party. He attends the Lutheran church, of which his wife is a devout member. In 1892 he was united in wedlock with Miss Catherine Lumpp, a native of Florence township and the daughter of John and Caroline (Cline) Lumpp, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Tonawanda county, N. Y. Mrs. Lumpp came with her parents to Williams county in 1867, where she was married two years later. John Lumpp died in Florence township in 1898. To F. W. Faber and wife there have been born two children. They are: Viola Gertrude, born in 1893, and Florence May, born in 1895.


JACOB A. FABER.

JACOB A. FABER, a successful farmer and highly respected citizen of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., was born on the old homestead in that township on July 4, 1862. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Fehleman) Faber, the former a native of France and the latter of Berne, Switzerland, both of whom when young emigrated with their parents to America. His grandfather, Jacob Faber, came to the United States in 1845 and settled first in Portage county, O., and from there removed to Pulaski township, Williams county, where he traded for a farm of eighty acres. The land was so densely timbered that a site for the log cabin had to be cleared before it could be erected. In the course of time the entire tract was cleared and brought to a high state of cultivation. Here both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, following general farming. Two children were born to them, as follows: Caroline, who married Frederick D. Sheibie and died in France, and Jacob, the father of the subject of this sketch. Jacob received a substantial education in his native country and attended school one term after coming to America. In the clearing of the home place he toiled diligently and afforded his father material assistance. In politics he was a Democrat and was a worker in the party. He was a farmer and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1871 he lost his life in a most deplorable runaway accident. His widow survived him eleven years. Eight children were born to these parents, as follows: Henry, a farmer on the homestead; Caroline, the wife of C. J. Bowman of Pulaski township; Jacob A.; George, who died when young; Charles, a practicing physician of Toledo, O.; Fred and William, druggists, of Toledo, O., and Mary, who makes her home with Mrs. Bowman. All were educated in the home schools and lived together until grown. Fred and Charles each for some time taught school in the home district. Jacob A. Faber who has always resided on the home place, owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, one hundred of which are cleared. He devotes his time to general farming, and to raising Oxford Down sheep, Short Horned cattle, horses and hogs. In politics he is a Democrat, always taking a deep interest in public affairs. He has served as township trustee, member of the school board, and in 1904 was made chairman of the board of agriculture. In Free Masonry he is quite prominent, holding membership in the Blue Lodge, No. 215, Royal Arch Chapter, No. 45, and Defiance Commandery. In religious matters he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. On November 13, 1887, he was wedded to Miss Mary Smith of Brady township, the daughter of Frederick and Catherine Smith, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Brady township. To Jacob A. Faber and wife two children have been born, Celia M., a student of the Bryan school, and Freda, an infant.

MARY FABER.

LOUIS FABER has been a resident of Williams county for more than thirty years, and since 1880 he has resided on his present fine farm property, in section 23, Superior township, being one of the popular citizens and progressive agriculturists of this part of the county. He was born in Seneca county, O., on the 10th of October, 1856, and is a son of Jacob Faber, who was born and reared in Germany, being of the same family line as the Fabers who have attained worldwide reputation as manufacturers of lead pencils. In 1854 Jacob Faber came to America, locating in Seneca county, O., where he followed the trade of carpenter and cabinetmaker, later removing to Putnam county, where he died in 1862. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Leuthart, was likewise born in Germany, and she died in 1880, both having been zealous and devoted members of the German Lutheran church. They became the parents of six children, namely: Anna, Jacob, Minnie, Charles, Louis and Frank W. Minnie and Charles are deceased. Louis Faber secured his educational training in the schools of Putnam county, where he was reared to maturity, and afterward he followed the trade of brickmaking for more than thirteen years, being a skilled artisan in that line. In 1872 he came to Williams county, and in

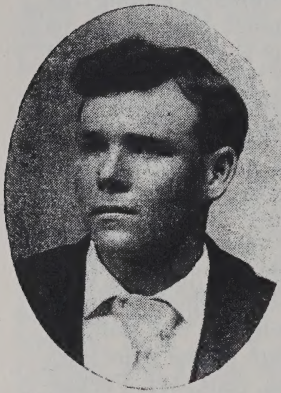
1880 he took up his residence on his present farm, where he has since been actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, being one of the substantial citizens of Superior township, while his farm, which comprises one hundred and forty acres, is under effective cultivation and provided with fine improvements, including the commodious brick residence, which was erected in 1893. He is a stanch advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and the esteem in which he is held in the community is shown in the fact that he is now serving in the office of township trustee, with marked discrimination and ability. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias, and both he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church. October 20, 1880, Mr. Faber was united in marriage to Miss Alpharetta Courtney, daughter of Isaac Courtney, a well known farmer of Superior township, and the two children of this union, Myrtle May and Roy V., still remain at the parental home.

DANIEL H. FACKLER, one of the honored pioneer farmers of Millcreek township, is a native of the old Buckeye State and a representative of one of its pioneer families. He was born five miles north of Mansfield, Richland county, O., on the 21st of July, 1838, and is a son of David and Elizabeth Fackler, both of whom were born and reared in Dauphin county, Pa., where they continued to reside about one year after their marriage was solemnized. Then they set forth for Ohio and settled on a farm near Mansfield, which was then a small village, and the father continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits in Richland county until his death, which occurred in 1865. About twelve years later his widow consummated a second marriage, finally removing with her husband to Johnson county, Ia., where she passed the remainder of her life. Seven children were born of the first marriage, namely: Barbara, who is the wife of William Lyman, of Pioneer, Williams county; Susanna, who is the wife of Daniel Horst, of Hillsdale county, Mich.; Jeremiah C., who resides in Kosciusko county, Ind.; Daniel H., whose name introduces this article; Joseph, who resides in Ashland county, O.; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Samuel Raymond, of Shelby, this state; and Rebecca, who is the wife of Uriah Brown, residing in South Dakota. Daniel H. Fackler was reared to maturity in his native county, where he was afforded the advantages of the common schools of the day and where he continued to be identified with farming until 1861, when he came to Williams county and located on a tract of land in Millcreek township, this section at the time being still largely unreclaimed from the primitive wilds. His first place of abode was an old log cabin, which he occupied until he could complete the erection of a better building. He has ever since continued to reside in Millcreek township, where he has reclaimed and improved two good farms, his homestead place, equipped with substantial and attractive buildings, comprising eighty acres, while his other farm has an area of eighty acres. In earlier years he devoted considerable attention to the lumbering business, having owned and operated a sawmill and having made this branch of enterprise a profitable one. In politics he gives his support to the Democratic party, but has never sought or held office of any sort. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the German Baptist Brethren church and no residents of the community are held in higher regard than they. September 17, 1859, at Ashland, O., was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Fackler to Miss Lydia A. Cole, who was born in Lancaster county, Pa., September 7, 1835, being a daughter of Jacob and Mary Cole, who were likewise born in that county, of stanch old German stock. In 1836 they came to Ohio and settled near Mansfield, Richland county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father following the vocation of farming until his death, at the venerable age of eighty-one years, while his wife was eighty-five years of age at the time of her death. They became the parents of thirteen children, namely: John, Hetty, Reuben, Eliza, Mary, Jacob, Louis, Barbara, Susanna, Nancy, Martha, Georgia and Lydia Ann. Of the number only two are living—Mrs. Fackler, and Barbara, who is the wife of Abel Niman, of Richland county. Mr. and Mrs. Fackler became the parents of six children, all of whom are living except one. Marcus Q. resides in the city of Adrian, Mich.; David O. is a farmer of Millcreek township; Flora E. is the wife of Eugene Stucker, of Madison township; Rosella is the wife of John D. Weidig, of Hillsdale county, Mich.; Orpheus A. resides in Shannon, Ill.; and Aldula, who became the wife of Howard Henry, is deceased.

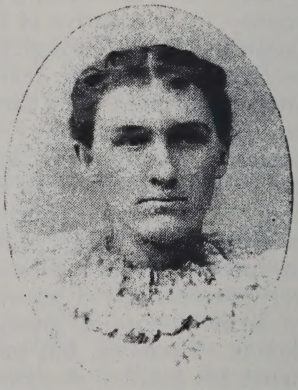
EMMETT M. FACKLER is one of the representative farmers of the younger generation in Williams county where he is well upholding the prestige of the family name, his father having been a pioneer of Madison township. Mr. Fackler was born on the homestead farm, his present place of residence, in Madison township, on the 23d of November, 1871, and is a son of Hiram and Phoebe (Falkner) Fackler, the former of whom was born in Richland county, O., on the 3d of February, 1834, while the latter was born in the hamlet of Planktown, that county, May 18, 1850. Hiram Fackler was a son of Henry and Catherine (Crall) Fackler, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Richland county, O., as pioneers, there passing the remainder of their lives. In that county Hiram Fackler was reared to manhood, and there he reclaimed a farm, upon which he continued to reside until 1859, when he came to Williams county and secured eighty acres of land in Madison township, later adding sixteen acres to its area, while he reclaimed the farm and developed the same into one of the productive and valuable places of the county. Here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on the 30th of April, 1904, and no man in the community was held in higher confidence and regard than he was. He was a stanch Republican in his political allegiance, and served as township trustee and in other local offices, while he was a worthy and devoted member of the United Brethren church, as is also his widow, who still resides on the old homestead, endeared to her through the memories and associations of the past. She is a daughter of Peter and Margaret (Lautermilch) Falkner, both of whom were born in Germany, while they were numbered among the pioneers of Planktown, Richland county, O., whence they came to Williams county about 1860, the father becoming a substantial and influential farmer of Millcreek township, where he died in 1904. His widow still resides in that township. Emmett M. Fackler, the only child of Hiram and Phoebe Fackler, was reared to manhood on the old homestead farm and was afforded the advantages of the public schools of his native county. He has never wavered in his devotion to the great basic industry of agriculture and has won a definite success as a progressive and wideawake farmer and stock-grower, while his attention is given to the operation of his fine farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres, practically all of which is under cultivation or available for this purpose. He clings to the political faith of his father and is arrayed as a stanch advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party. November 24, 1895, Mr. Fackler wedded Miss Mary E. Miller, who was born December 8, 1870, in Millcreek township, this county, being a daughter of Jacob and Leah (Pickens) Miller, honored pioneers of that township, where the father still resides, his wife having passed away in June, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Fackler have had two children, Gerald M., who died in infancy, and Harvey L., who was born on the 7th of May, 1905.

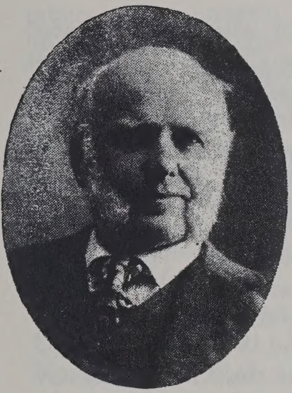
JOHN S. FETTER, a prominent merchant of Edgerton, Williams county, O., is a native of Butler, DeKalb county, Ind. He is the son of Jacob and Rosa (Stough) Fetter, both natives of Germany. Jacob Fetter, when twenty-five years old, emigrated to America, and coming to Indiana, located on a farm in DeKalb county, where he was highly esteemed up to the day of his death by all who knew him and had business dealings with him. He was a fine specimen of the exemplary German-American citizen. His wife survives him and is a resident of Edgerton. John S. Fetter was reared in his native town and received a fair public school education, ample at least to enable him to succeed in his business enterprises. For ten years he conducted very successfully a general store at Butler, receiving the patronage of farmers from all parts of DeKalb county. He found no time to devote to politics, but gave his undivided attention to his business, hence his marked success. In 1892 he removed to Edgerton, where he has established a highly remunerative business in the same line. He possesses to a high degree the traits of the successful business man, such as a pleasing address, a genial disposition and the happy faculty of holding friends after having won them. He is scrupulously honest and makes it his chief aim to please his numerous customers by giving them a full equivalent for their money. In the work of the Masonic lodge at Edgerton he is deeply interested, having held the position of Past Master for several terms. He married Miss Rosa

Heckathorn, whose people were pioneers of DeKalb county, where they were prosperous and highly esteemed. Mr. and Mrs. Fetter have one child, named Gladys, who is still at home.


ADRIAN A. FARNHAM.

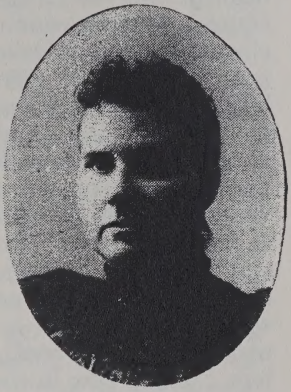
ADRIAN ALVARO FARNHAM, a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., is a grandson of Daniel and Caroline (Sawyer) Farnham. Daniel Farnham was born in the State of Pennsylvania and came to St. Joseph township, Williams county, in a very early day. Trading with the Indians was his chief occupation. He and wife both died at Edgerton, the former in 1896 and the latter two years later. His maternal grandfather, Alvan Porter, was a prominent and influential man in his day and was highly esteemed by his fellow citizens. The parents of Adrian A. Farnham are Myron Clay and Martha (Porter) Farnham, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. Myron C. Farnham has been engaged in farming all of his life, owning two hundred and sixty acres of the very finest land in this township and a large tract in South Dakota. He now resides in Edgerton, having retired from active life. In politics he is an ardent Republican. He and his wife have had eleven children, all of whom are still living. It is his happy lot to be able to rest from the active duties of life and to enjoy his well-earned wealth, at the same time enjoying the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, something that he prizes more highly than his wealth. Adrian A. Farnham was reared on his father's farm, receiving a fair common-school education. At present he is engaged in farming and in breeding draft and road horses and is meeting with unusual success. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and with his wife a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On March 24, 1895, he married Miss Elizabeth Coll, a native of DeKalb county, Ind., and the daughter of E. M. and Phoebe (Jennings) Coll, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. They now live near Butler, DeKalb county, Ind. Nine children have been born to them. Adrian A. Farnham and wife are the parents of three children. They are Leitha Grace (deceased), Virgil McKinley and Loyal Adrian. Both Mr. and Mrs. Farnham are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Farnham is a Republican and has served as school director.


ELIZABETH D. FARNHAM.



MYRON C. FARNHAM.

MYRON CLAY FARNHAM, a retired farmer of Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in St. Joseph township of that county, June 17, 1844. He is a descendent of one of the most distinguished pioneer families of Ohio. His grandparents were Eli and Sallie (Dimmick) Farnham, who removed from Connecticut to Delavan county, N. Y., in 1814, where the former died in 1822. After his death his widow removed to Williams county, O., where she died at the home of her son Daniel. The parents of Myron C. Farnham were Daniel and Caroline (Sawyer) Farnham, the former a native of Connecticut. Daniel Farnham was born in Wendham county, Conn., in 1801, and was self-educated, studying at night, while working hard during the day, to augment his education of six months in the common schools. He remained with his parents in Delavan county until he was twenty-four years old, engaged in hauling logs and rafting on the Susquehanna river. In 1835 he wandered West until he came to Williams county, where he worked at odd jobs for four months and then clerked for a like period for P. C. Parker, an Indian trader at Denmark. The following year he returned to Delavan county and in the autumn of that year brought back with him to Williams county his mother and his sister. He went to work at once to clear and cultivate the land that he had entered and to build on it a pioneer cabin. This farm is located just west of the one now owned by his son Myron C. Soon after settling on his farm he set up a store on the place and conducted it very successfully. Starting with practically nothing, by dint of thrift and industry he became a very wealthy man, owning about one thousand acres of valuable land and a controlling interest in a store at Edgerton, where he built a fine store-house in 1856. When this was destroyed by fire in 1871 he re-built on a much larger and finer scale, and this building too was burned in 1897. In politics he was a Whig until 1856, when he cast his lot with the Republican party. For twelve years he served as a justice of the peace and for nine years as a county commissioner. His earlier experiences were as interesting as they were varied. Game was the chief subsistence of the family. Deer and bear were plentiful. A trip to the nearest grist mill at Constantine, Mich., seventy miles distant, required eleven days, using an ox team. In religious matters he was a Universalist in belief. In 1840 he was wedded to Miss Caroline Sawyer, the daughter of Prescott Sawyer. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are living at Edgerton and one at Pasadena, Cal. He died December 27, 1896, and his widow on January 25, 1898. His son Eli, who was associated with him in the business at Edgerton after the Civil war, was born in 1843, reared on the home farm and educated at Bryan, O., and Hillsdale College, Mich. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K of the Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and took part in the battle of Shiloh. After serving for eight months he was taken sick and discharged an account of disability. In 1877 he was wedded to Miss Emma Rathborn of Lodi, Wis., the daughter of William and June Rathborn, of New England and English extraction. He and his wife are the parents of six children, five of whom are living. Myron Clay Farnham grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a limited education in the schools of DeKalb county, Ind., and Williams county, O. In 1863 he enlisted as a private in Company E, of the Ninth Ohio cavalry and was soon promoted to a sargeant, and later he served as color bearer of the battalion until the close of the war, taking part in no less than twenty-seven engagements with the enemy, among them being the following battles: Decatur, Ala., May 8, 1864; Florence, Ala., June 3, 1864; with Rousseau's expedition in Alabama; around Atlanta, Ga.; Jonesboro, Ga., September 1, 1864; Bear Creek, Ga., November 18, 1864; Macon, Ga., November 21, 1864; Reynold's Plantation, Ga., November 28, 1864; Waynesboro, Ga., December 4, 1864; Black Creek, Ga., December 7, 1864; Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864; Barnwell, S. C., February 6, 1865; Blackville, S. C., February 7, 1865; Williston, S. C., February 8, 1865; Aiken, S. C., February 11, 1865; North Edisto River, S. C., February 14, 1865; Wadesboro, N. C., March 3, 1865; Rockingham, N. C., March 7, 1865; Fayetteville, N. C., March 10, 1865; Averysboro, N. C., March 16, 1865; Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865; and Raleigh, N. C., April 13, 1865. His regiment, as stated, was under General Rousseau in the raid from Decatur, Ala., lasting fourteen days, and with General Sherman on the march to the sea and up through the Carolinas, taking part in the last battle fought east of the Mississippi river. At the close of the war Mr. Farnham returned to Williams county and engaged in farming, which has been his principal occupation all through life. Although he was engaged for four years in selling agricultural implements, he at the same time was engaged in farming. In 1882 he went to South Dakota, where he entered three hundred and twenty acres of land to which he has since added one hundred and sixty acres, making a total of four hundred and eighty acres. At one time he owned a full section there. On his home farm in Williams county, consisting of two hundred and sixty acres, he has erected a fine residence and all the other necessary buildings, making it one of the best equipped farms in the county. In 1902 Mr. Farnham removed to Edgerton and there for the past three years he has lived a retired life, enjoying the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. In politics he is a Republican. Having always taken a deep interest in school affairs, he served a number of years on the school board. In 1875 he became a member of Edgerton Lodge, No. 608, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also identified with the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of Walter Slaughter Post, No. 568. At present he is a member of the staff of General Benjamin M. Moulton, Commander of the Department of the Ohio, with the rank of Colonel. On December 5, 1866, he married Miss Martha C. Porter of Pulaski, Onondaga county, N. Y., who was born November 6, 1848. She is the daughter of Alvaro and Amanda (Anderson) Porter, the former born at Ft. Ann, Washington county, N. Y., January 18, 1818, and the latter in Leroy, Jefferson county, April 30, 1821. They removed to Stryker, Williams county, O., and then to Big Rapids, Mich., where he died in June, 1884, and his widow surviving him twenty years died at Watertown N. Y., in September, 1904. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom, all daughters, are still living. Mrs. Farnham is quite active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church at Edgerton, being a member of the aid and missionary societies. She is also actively identified with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Woman's Relief Corps, the Rebeccas and the Home Culture club, and has the honor of being the first woman to serve as a director on the school board in St. Joseph township. She was president of the Relief Corps three terms, a representative to the State encampment at Columbus, a delegate to the National encampment at St. Paul, and inspector of Williams, Henry and Fulton counties. Myron Clay Farnham and wife are the parents of eleven children. Eli Porter, the eldest, was born February 28, 1868, and is now postmaster of Central City, South Dakota, where he is also engaged in mining. Nellie May, the second child, was born May 8, 1870, and was married to Willie Spindler, a dairy farmer of Deadwood, South Dakota. Adrian Alvaro, the third child, was born December 20, 1872, and lives on the homestead. Daniel Dimmick, the fourth child, was born November 15, 1874, and is a professional cook at Nebraska City. Carrie Amanda, the fifth child, was born September 13, 1876, and is the wife of John Hoffer, an ex-teacher, and now a resident of Portland, Oregon, where he is engaged in the railroad business. Ora Earl, the sixth child, was born May 27, 1878, and graduated from the Boxwell school, Edgerton high school, the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., the Toledo Business College, and, in 1902, from the law department of the University of Michigan. He at once began the practice of his profession in South Dakota, forming a partnership with a Mr. La Fleetche,



MARTHA C. FARNHAM.

at the time state's attorney. In 1904, upon the dissolution of the firm, he was elected judge on the Republican ticket in a Democratic county, which position he still holds, being the youngest judge ever elected in South Dakota. Prescott Sawyer, the seventh child, was born October 30, 1880. He graduated from Boxwell and Edgerton high school and is now a professional cook at Lead City, South Dakota. Lincoln Anderson, the eighth child, was born September 3, 1882, attended the Edgerton high school and the Toledo Business College, and enlisted as a cook in the United States navy. He was serving on the Missouri in that capacity at the time of the accident at Pensacola, Fla. Because of rheumatism he had to quit the navy and go to Hot Springs, Ark., for treatment. Dakota Spink, the ninth child, is a graduate from Boxwell and Edgerton high school. After spending a year on a ranch in South Dakota with his sister he returned home and took a business course in the Toledo Business College. He is now in the employ of Heller-Aller Co., wind mill manufacturers of Napoleon, O., in the capacity of stenographer. The last two children are Myron Clay and Alphonso Mead, the former born May 23, 1887, and the latter August 26, 1889, who are still at home attending school.

JOHN HARRISON FENIMORE, of West Unity, is one of the honored pioneer citizens of Williams county, now retired from active business, after having devoted many years to agricultural pursuits, while he is a veteran of the Civil war, manifesting the same loyalty which has characterized him in all the relations of life. Mr. Fenimore was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 18th of January, 1836, and is a son of Abraham and Catherine (Ulrey) Fenimore, the former of whom was born in New Jersey, February 24, 1805, and the latter of whom was born in Maryland, April 11, 1803. Abraham Fenimore was a son of Caleb Fenimore, who likewise was born in New Jersey, whence he came to Ohio in the early pioneer era, having taken up his residence in Columbiana county in 1807, about five years after the admission of the State to the Union. He passed the closing years of his life in the village of Canal Fulton. Stark county, Ohio. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this review removed from Maryland to Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1825, and there he died about two years later. Abraham Fenimore was reared under the conditions and influences of life on the frontier, assisting in the reclaiming of a farm in Columbiana county, where he received such educational advantages as were afforded in the primitive schools of the period. In 1848 he came to Williams county, and two years later purchased eighty acres of wild land, in Jefferson township, while in 1853 he located on the land, most of which he reclaimed to cultivation, improving the place with good buildings. On this homestead he continued to reside until his death, which occurred July 16, 1876, his wife having passed away February 25, 1871. Of their five childrden two died in infancy, and the other three still survive. The father was a Democrat in politics, and both he and his wife were members of church. John H. Fenimore secured his rudimentary education in the common schools of Columbiana county, having been about seventeen years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, where he was reared to manhood on the homestead farm, in the meanwhile continuing to attend school as opportunity afforded. In August, 1862, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, being at the time in West Virginia, where he enlisted in Battery D, First West Virginia Light Artillery, with which he participated in engagements at Moorefield, that state, and Newmarket and Winchester, Va., being in action three days at the latter point, where he was finally captured, being held a prisoner twenty-four days, and then being exchanged. He was wounded in the engagement at New Market. He continued in service until the close of the war, having been mustered out on the 27th of June, 1865, and having duly received his honorable discharge. He signifies his continued interest in his old comrades by retaining membership in Rings Post, No. 637, G. A. R., of West Unity. Prior to the war he passed four and one-half years in the home of his uncle, John Fenimore, at Martin's Ferry, Belmont county, and ever since that period his home has been in Williams county, while his vocation has been that of farming. He has resided in West Unity for the past twenty-two years, and has been practically retired from active business for some years. He owns the old homestead farm, secured by his father so many years ago, and also another eighty-acre farm in the same locality, in Jefferson township, while his residence in West Unity is one of the most attractive homes in the village. In politics he is independent of strict partisan lines. He served two years as clerk of Jefferson township, as township trustee one year and as justice of the peace for six years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his first wife. November 17, 1867, Mr. Fenimore wedded Miss Rachel Burns, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, being a daughter of Robert and Ann (Dunlap) Burns, who came to Williams county in 1864. Here Mr. Burns died on the 15th of December, 1880, and his widow on the 7th of February, 1899. Mrs. Fenimore was called to the life eternal on the 3d of June, 1892, having been survived by her two daughters. The elder, Della Maude, became the wife of Howard Burt Kelly, of Goshen, Ind., and she died March 16, 1900, leaving one child, Reba. Bertha, the younger daughter, is the wife of Dr. William A. Held, of West Unity, who is mentioned on other pages of this work. February 24, 1897, Mr. Fenimore consummated a second marriage, being then united to Miss Flora Webb, who was born in Brady township, this county, February 24, 1858, being a daughter of Thomas S. and Sarah (Pennock) Webb, who came here from Columbiana county, in 1852. Mr. Webb died November 9, 1880, and his widow is now (1905) living in West Unity, at the venerable age of eighty-one years.

LEVI FETTERS, a retired farmer and prominent citizen of Edon, Williams county, O., was born in Wayne county of that State on September 3, 1839. He is of German descent, his paternal and maternal grandparents having been natives of Germany. Daniel and Sarah (Wissel) Fetters, the parents of Levi Fetters, were both natives of Pennsylvania, where the former was born on January 26, 1806. The grandparents of Levi, John and Eve (Werehime) Fetters, emigrated to America in an early day and settled in Pennsylvania. His maternal grandfather was John Wissel. Daniel Fetters was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native state. After his marriage to Miss Sarah Wissel he removed to Wayne county, O., in 1829, and resided there until 1851, when he came to Williams county, where he died in 1887, his widow surviving him five years. In politics he was a Democrat, serving as township treasurer for many years, and with his wife a member of the Disciples church. To Daniel Fetters and his wife sixteen children were born. Their names follow: John, Margaret, Samuel, Daniel, Hester, Jane, Washington, Levi, Sarah, Mary, Hiram, Lewis, Elizabeth, Eliza, Angeline and Monroe. Levi Fetters grew to manhood on his father's farm, and received his education in the common schools of his native county. In 1851 he came with his parents to Williams county, with them residing until 1868, when he removed to Florence township and there located on and cleared the farm of one hundred acres which he now owns. Here he resided for five years without the advantages of a single county road. In 1904 he removed to Edon, where he purchased a house and two lots, and where he now resides, living in contentment, having retired from the active duties of life. While he has always been a Democrat in politics he has reserved the right to vote independently whenever his judgment directed him to do so; especially is this the case in municipal affairs. On religious questions he, together with his wife, entertain quite liberal views. In June, 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Allen, born in Columbiana county, O., on November 10, 1841, the daughter of David and Mary Ann (Little) Allen, both natives of Pennsylvania, who removed to Columbiana county in 1837, and from there to DeKalb county, Ind., in 1854. Seven years later the family removed to Williams county, where both died, the latter on March 31, 1883. To their marriage five children were born, as follows: Amer C., Ama, Sarah Jane, Abram and Mary. To Levi Fetters and his wife there have been born six children, of whom four are now living. Their names follow: Elsie, who was born on March 7, 1867, and died on February 2, 1872; Cora, born February 1, 1870, died on September 9, 1870; Geraldine, born April 20, 1872; David D., born July 9, 1874; Zora, born January 2, 1876, and George Emory, born March 24, 1878.

MICHAEL FISHER, deceased, at the time of his death a prominent and successful farmer in Center township, Williams county, O., was a native of Germany, having been born in Bavaria on April

12, 1830. When ten years old he emigrated to the United States with his parents, Jacob Andrew and Anna Barbara (Houch) Fisher, who first located in what is now Defiance county, O., and in 1841 removed to Center township, Williams county, and settled on the farm now owned partly by George M. Fisher, and partly by the widow of Michael Fisher, and here both spent the remainder of their days. They were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, of whom only two are living. Michael Fisher located on the farm where his family resides, in 1853, and there resided until his death on February 25, 1905. In politics he was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. On August 15, 1853, he was wedded to Miss Mary Laufer, born in Tiffin, O., March 14, 1837, the daughter of Nicholas and Catherine (Shear) Laufer, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States in an early day and settled, first at Tiffin and from there removed to Williams county in 1853, where he died January 16, 1869, aged sixty-nine years, and his wife on June 25, 1866, aged fifty-eight years. He was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Reformed church. They had a family of twelve children, of whom four are yet living. To Michael Fisher and wife were born fourteen children, thirteen of whom are yet living. Those living are: Jacob, born December 6, 1854; George Michael, born February 5, 1857; Mary Elizabeth, born June 25, 1858; Anna Margaret, born February 13, 1860; John Z., born June 17, 1862; Caroline, born October 22, 1863; Henry Elsworth, born February 24, 1865; David Walter, born June 4, 1868; William Martin, born January 27, 1870; Albert Clarence, born June 29, 1871; Franklin Charles Frederick, born January 19, 1874; Martha Matilda, born February 3, 1878; Victoria Celestia, born February 1, 1884. Simon Frederick, the eighth child, was born November 12, 1866, and died June 13, 1868. Frank C. Fisher was reared on the old homestead and was educated in the district schools. He has followed farming and stock-raising all his life. He now has charge of the old homestead of 115 acres, which is in a high state of cultivation. On January 18, 1899, he was united in marriage with Dora M. Mavis, daughter of Calvin and Maria (Martin) Mavis, both natives of Defiance county, O., where they continued to reside until their deaths. Politically Frank C. Fisher is a Democrat, but has never sought office.

SAMUEL FLIGHTNER, a successful Norman horse breeder of Blakeslee, Williams county, O., is a native of Crawford county, O., where he was born on March 3, 1842. He is the son of Adam and Catherine (Russell) Flightner, both natives of Germany. His grandparents emigrated to America in 1826, when Adam Flightner was only ten years old, and coming directly to Ohio, settled in Crawford county, where both died, the latter nearly a century old. Adam Flightner removed to Defiance county, O., in 1852, where he purchased land for farming purposes. Later he removed to Center township, Williams county, and then spent his productive years in general farming. From this farm he removed to Bryan, where he died in 1892, his wife having died on the farm in Center township in 1873. Of the thirteen children born to these parents four sons and two daughters are still living. Samuel Flightner grew to manhood on the parental farm and received his education by attending the common schools. He resided in Farmer township, Defiance county, until 1875, when he removed to Center township, Williams county, where he owned a farm of one hundred and eighty acres. He has followed general farming and breeding Norman horses for the past twenty-five years. In 1902 he changed his residence to Blakeslee, where he now lives. Taking a keen interest in public affairs, he has served as township trustee and constable. He is a Democrat and a member of Blakeslee Lodge, No. 502, Knights of Pythias. On October 15, 1864, he was wedded to Miss Lucinda H. Stevens, who was born in Crawford county on December 18, 1844, and died in November, 1884. To this union there were born the following children: Mary L., Charles W., Edward J., Elnora A., Franklin E., Jennie B., Myrta M. and Dora. His second wife, whom he married on April 15, 1885, was Miss Elizabeth Miser, born in Center township on January 1, 1847, the daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Kent) Miser, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. Jacob Miser was a farmer by occupation and a Democrat in politics. He died in 1860 and was survived by his widow one year. Eight children were born to them, of whom six are yet living. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Flightner was Frederick Miser, who came to Williams county in 1834, and entered three hundred and sixty acres of land in Center township, where he spent the rest of his days. Her maternal grand-parents were Ashford and Nancy Kent, who settled in Springfield township in pioneer days. To Samuel Flightner and second wife two children have been born. They are: Adam J., born March 29, 1886, and Eva, who died in infancy.

SAMUEL E. FOLK, superintendent of the electric light and water works plants of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born in Karle, six miles from Bryan, on April 22, 1863. The first representative of the Folk family of Pennsylvania to come to Williams county was Jacob Folk, who moved his family here long before the era of railroads, and when this part of the State was still a veritable wilderness. Samuel E. Folk is the son of William and Catherine (Andre) Folk, both natives of Pennsylvania. William Folk was a gunsmith by trade and followed that avocation for many years. In 1864 he removed to Bryan, O., where he died in 1897. His widow is still living, but in her sixty-sixth year. Two children were born to them, whose names were, Samuel E., and Minnie, the latter of whom married Richard Palmer, and died in December, 1904. Samuel E. Folk was reared and educated in Bryan. After leaving school he worked in his father's gunshop for some time, but as his predilection was more for machinery than for gunmaking, he, in 1891, engaged in business for himself by establishing a shop for machine work, repairing, etc., in which business he continued for eleven years. In 1902 he was elected superintendent of the electric light and water works plants of Bryan, a position that he still fills with profit to the city and with great credit to himself. A natural machinist, he has done his work so thoroughly and so satisfactorily that the city fathers regard his services as indispensable. He is actively identified with Free Masonry, being a Blue Lodge and Chapter member. In religious matters he is affiliated with the Methodist church. On July 26, 1885, he was united in marriage to Miss Orcelia Dorshimer, a native of Williams county, the daughter of Henry Dorshimer. One daughter has blessed their marriage, Faye by name.

FRANCIS MARION FORD, editor and publisher of the Montpelier Enterprise, of which he was the founder, is one of the representative citizens of Williams county and is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Chesterfield township, Fulton county, Ohio, on the 29th of August, 1846, and is a son of Hiram W. and Sarah (Willett) Ford, the former of whom was born in Cortland county, N. Y., February 16, 1818, while the latter was born in Somerset county, N. J., December 25, 1814. Rev. Samuel Ford, father of Hiram W., was a distinguished member of the clergy of the Baptist church and established the first church of this denomination in Laporte, Ind., in 1839. Hiram W. Ford was engaged in farming during the major portion of his active career and he died July 18, 1902, at Crystal Valley, Oceana county, Mich., his wife having been summoned into the life eternal on the 15th of October, 1885. They became the parents of six children, of whom three are living. Francis Marion Ford received good educational advantages in his youth, having attended school in Farmer, now known as Interlaken, Seneca county, N. Y., until he was seventeen years of age, while he also was a student for some time at Morenci, Mich. At the time when his youthful loyalty and patriotism prompted him to go forth in defense of the Union Mr. Ford was engaged in farm work in Chesterfield township, Fulton county, Ohio, the place of his birth, being eighteen years of age. September 30, 1864, in the city of Toledo, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Eighty-second Ohio Volunteer infantry, in which he was enrolled as a private. His command was stationed at Nashville, Tenn., under General Thomas, and Mr. Ford was detailed to load timber on cars at Johnsonville that state, and after the battle of Nashville he was assigned to duty in guarding prisoners on the trip from Nashville to Louisville. He was an active participant in the battle between the forces of Generals Thomas and Hood at Nashville, and in that city he was confined in the hospital about two weeks, as a result of an attack of low fever, receiving his honorable discharge on the 14th of July, 1865. His brother, S. Ansel Ford, was a member of the Twenty-second New York Independent Battery, and died December 8, 1862, in Washington, D. C., from quick consumption. Two uncles of Mrs. Ford were likewise valiant soldiers in the Union army, and one of them is still living. After the close of the war Mr. Ford remained for a time in Ohio and then removed to Morenci, Lenawee county, Mich., where, in 1871, he became a partner in a grocery business, with which he was identified about six months, after which he devoted himself to clerical work, farming and other vocations until 1879, when he initiated his association with the printing and publishing business by taking a position in a printing office in Morenci. In 1880 he entered into partnership with James R. Smalley, and they were associated in the publication of the Montpelier Enterprise about two years, after which Mr. Ford purchased his partner's interest in the business, which he sold about two years later. He then established the Montpelier Advocate, which later became known as the Democrat, under the ownership of W. Otis Willett. Later Mr. Ford became associated with Mr. Willett in the re-purchase of the Montpelier Enterprise, of which they continued to be the publishers until 1903, since which time Mr. Ford has had entire control of the business. The paper is published on Thursday of each week, and is an attractive six-column quarto, effectively covering its province in the handling of local news and ever giving its influence in support of all legitimate enterprises and undertakings for the general good. The Enterprise is independent in politics, as is its editor, and its support is accorded to men and measures and principles, rather than having a policy of partisan bias and control. Mr. Ford exercises his franchise in the same independent way. He was city clerk of Montpelier from 1882 to 1885, inclusive, but has never been a seeker of public office. He is identified with Hiram Louden Post, No. 155, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he has served as commander and adjutant, and he is also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. October 17, 1877, Mr. Ford was united in marriage, in Morenci, Mich., to Miss Mary Ella Smalley, who was born January 5, 1856, being a daughter of John P. Smalley, who was in the government employ at Nashville, Tenn., during the Civil war, though not a soldier. He died in 1882, and his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah S. Converse, is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Ford became the parents of three children, Raymond R., who is associated with his father in the publication of the Montpelier Enterprise, was born October 12, 1878. July 12, 1899, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second United States Volunteers, with which he served in the campaign operations in the Philippine islands, receiving his honorable discharge March 8, 1901. After his return from the Orient, and on September 17, 1903, he married Miss Flora Bordner, daughter of Daniel and Amanda Bordner, of Florence township. Florence, who was born September 16, 1882, died on July 10th of the following year. Clifton S., born September 6, 1884, is a student in Oberlin College, while he assists in the work of the office of the Enterprise during his vacations.

HENRY B. FRANKS, who maintains his residence in Montpelier, is one of the progressive and successful business men of Williams county, and conducts a large and prosperous enterprise in the manufacturing and sale of lumber, having a well equipped mill in Montpelier. The family is of German origin and was founded in America in the Colonial era. Henry Franks, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a Continental soldier in the war of the Revolution, having later been with the Indians eight years and having witnessed the execution of Captain Jack Crawford; and it is reasonably certain that he was also a participant in the war of 1812. His son Henry, grandfather of Henry B., was born in 1799 or 1800, and came from Pennsylvania to Ohio in an early day, devoting the greater part of his active life to agricultural pursuits. His wife's name was Barbara. Malachi P. Franks, father of him whose name initiates this article, was born in Doylestown, Wayne county, Ohio, in 1832, where he was reared and educated, and later he removed to Spencer, Medina county, where he learned the trade of cheesemaking, to which he gave his attention for many years. In 1870 he removed to Hillsdale county, Mich., where he purchased a farm, and the residue of his life was given to agricultural pursuits. He died October 18, 1891, and his wife now resides in Pioneer, Williams county, Ohio. She was born in Wayne county, this state, April 23, 1835, and is a daughter of George and Delilah Wicks, while her christian name is Sarah. She is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church as was also her husband, and he was a Republican in politics. They became the parents of five children, namely: Henry B., of this sketch; Malachi P., a resident of California, Branch county, Michigan; Nettie, deceased; Maud, wife of Howard Snyder, of Frontier, Hillsdale county, Mich.; and Lyman W., of Montpelier. Henry B. Franks was born in Litchfield, Medina county, Ohio, June 30, 1858, and his early education was secured in a select school at Spencer, Ohio, and the public schools of Hillsdale county, Mich. He was afforded excellent advantages, continuing to attend school until he had attained the age of twenty years, and having secured a good business education. After leaving school he engaged in the lumber business on a small scale, at Waldron, Mich., where he owned a third interest in a hardwood lumber mill. After having been identified with this enterprise one year he removed to Pittsford, Hillsdale county, that state, where he was located about eighteen months, having a half-interest in a hardwood mill. For the ensuing two years he was the owner and operator of a small mill at Frontier, Hillsdale county, and in 1886 he returned to Ohio and located in Montpelier, where he has ever since been engaged in the same line of enterprise, upon an amplified scale. In 1893 he opened a yard for the handling of softwood lumber, and in 1896 he purchased eighteen hundred acres of hardwood land in northern Michigan, where he continues to cut and manufacture a considerable amount of lumber annually. He also operates a hardwood and excelsior mill in Montpelier, and is one of the live business men of Williams county, reliable and progressive in his methods and having the confidence of all with whom he has dealings. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, and he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. June 6, 1895, Mr. Franks was united in marriage to Miss Josie Owens, of Montpelier. They have no children.

SHERMAN S. FRAZIER, M. D., is engaged in the practice of his profession in Kunkle, and the evidences of his success are not only those to be seen in the large practice which he controls but also in the independent position which he has gained through his professional endeavors and business operations. He has a finely equipped drug store, conducting the same in connection with his practice, and has other local interests of importance, while no citizen of the community is held in higher esteem. Dr. Frazier was born in Blackford county, Ind., on the 1st of June, 1865, and is a son of William F. M. and Catherine (Ulum) Frazier, the former of whom was born in Hamilton county, O., September 2, 1828, while the latter was born in Greenville, Darke county O., May 29, 1830. The paternal grandparents of the Doctor were William and Anna (Pickens) Frazier, the former of whom was born and reared in Scotland, whence he came to America and located in Ohio in an early day. He later removed to Delaware county, Ind., where he died at the patriarchal age of ninety-nine years, six months and thirteen days. William F. M. Frazier was educated in the common schools of Marion county, O., and was there engaged as a potter until about 1851, when he removed to Blackford county, Ind., where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred February 2, 1902, while his devoted wife passed away March 19, 1904, both having been members of the Church of God. The father was one of the first four men to become identified with the Republican party in Blackford county, and in 1864 he enlisted as a member of Company C. Fifty-third Indiana volunteer infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, having taken part in several engagements and participated in Sherman's memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. Of his six sons three are living. Dr. Frazier secured his early education in the public schools of Dundee, Ind., after which he continued his studies in the old Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne, that state. Having decided to adopt the medical profession as his vocation in life he was matriculated in the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, in which he completed the prescribed course and was graduated on the 4th of March, 1891, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. On the day following his graduation he opened an office and began practice at Dundee, Ind., where he remained eighteen months, at the expiration of which, on the 1st of July, 1892, he came to Kunkle, where he has since been engaged in active practice as a physician and surgeon and where he has met with marked success, gaining high standing among his confriers and having the confidence of the people of the community. He came to Kunkle burdened with debt and he is now in a position of financial independence, his competency representing the results of his own efforts and good management. Soon after locating in this attractive village he established a drug business, which he has since continued most successfully, owning the building in which his store is quartered and also having one of the finest residence properties in the town. He is a stockholder in the Kunkle State Banking Company, and owns one-seventh of the stock of the Farmers' Telephone Company, while he is president of the board of directors of the Kunkle Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of kitchen furniture. The doctor is a stanch Republican in politics but he has never sought office, though he served four years as county coroner. He is a valued member of the Williams County Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Association, and is also affiliated with the Kunkle Lodge, No. 821, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Pioneer Lodge, No. 347, Knights of Pythias, at Pioneer. October 13, 1897, Dr. Frazier was married to Miss Alma B. Benson, of Angola, Ind., and they have one daughter, Catherine B.

FREDERICK H. FULTON, an honored citizen and representative farmer of Jefferson township, was born in Columbiana county, O., on the 22d of February, 1839, and is a son of John F. and Magdalena (Kerley) Fulton, both of whom were born near the historic and picturesque old city of Strassburg, Germany, where they were reared and educated. They came to America when young and their marriage was solemnized in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., where the father was identified with the butchering trade about seven years, at the expiration of which, in 1830, he came to Columbiana county, O., being numbered among the pioneers of that county, whence, in 1835, he removed to Hancock county, where he eventually became the owner of two hundred acres of land, reclaiming much of the same from the forest wilds and becoming one of the leading farmers of that section, where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Both were members of the German Reformed church, and in politics he was a stanch Democrat. This worthy couple became the parents of nine children: Tobias and Francis are deceased; Frederick H., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Hannah married Adam Feick, now deceased, and resides in the city of Sandusky, O.; John resides in Hardin county, O.; Mary makes her home in Fostoria, O.; Caroline is a resident of Toledo, O.; Elizabeth is deceased, and Henry resides in Hardin county, O. Owing to the exigencies of time and place Frederick H. Fulton received meager educational advantages in his youth, while he early became inured to the strenuous labor of clearing wild land and doing other farm work, and he has ever retained the utmost respect for the dignity of honest toil and endeavor, which have characterized his personal career as one of the noble army of the world's workers. He remained at the parental home until he had arrived at the age of twenty years, when he began an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade, becoming a competent workman. In 1843 he went to Fostoria, O., where he worked at his trade, as did he later in the city of Sandusky. In 1860 he came to Williams county, where he found profitable employment at his trade, and for about five years, while maintaining his home in this county, he did more or less work as a collector for a Cincinnati concern, visiting divers sections of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. He resided in Montpelier, this county, for a number of years, during which he had charge of the erection of the buildings on the county fair grounds, and from 1865 to 1871 he was employed at his trade in Laporte, Ind., in the shops of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad. In the year last mentioned he returned to Williams county and purchased his present farm, the homestead of his wife's widowed mother and known as the Mott place. The farm comprises eighty acres, and when he came into possession only seventeen acres had been cleared, but he has developed the farm into one of the model ones of the county, having erected excellent buildings and made other improvements of the highest grade. All the land is reclaimed and under cultivation with the exception of sixteen acres, mainly covered with the native maple trees. He has three hundred sugar-maple trees on the farm and manufactures a very considerable quantity of maple sugar and syrup each year, finding a ready market for the products. For several years he also operated a sawmill and also a threshing outfit, his enterprising spirit leading him to take up ventures aside from his general farming and stock-growing. Mr. Fulton is held in the highest regard in his home community, and for the past three years he has been an incumbent of the office of justice of the peace, while he has also served as a member of the school board of his district. He is a Democrat of the Jacksonian type, and fraternally is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1865 Mr. Fulton was united in marriage to Miss Melinda J. Mott, who was born in Medina county, O., being a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Strong) Mott, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, while their marriage was solemnized in Ohio. They were numbered among the pioneers of Williams county, where Mr. Mott died in 1850, his widow surviving until 1874. They had twelve children, eight of whom are here mentioned, the others having died in infancy: Frank, a surveyor by profession, died in Wisconsin; Oscar, who was a member of the Thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, lost his right arm while in battle, and died in Elkhart, Ind., on June 28, 1905; Stephen, who was a member of the Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, died at Vicksburg, Miss., while in the service of his country; Elijah died in 1861; Harriet died in Remus, Mich., in 1882; Mrs. Fulton was the next in order of birth; Mary is deceased; and Clara is the wife of Charles Zorn, of Elkhart, Ind. The following record relates to the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Fulton: Cora M. is the wife of Samuel Roush, of Jefferson township, and they have four children living: Elsie, Ray, Clare and Mabel. Clara D. Fulton is the wife of Marcus Dunlap, of Superior township, and they have one child, Harry F. Olive F. is the wife of Joseph Mocherman, of Jefferson township, and they have two children, Boyd E. and Inez M. Ida B. is a stenographer by vocation. Maurice, who is employed as a bookkeeper in a leading business house of the city of Chicago, was a member of the First Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American war. On September 15, 1904, he was married to Miss Pearl E. Nelson, of Chicago, Ill. Pearl, the youngest of the children, remains at the parental home. All of the children have been afforded good educational advantages and have honored their parents in their later years.

WARREN LEROY FULTON was born January 9th, 1853, in Pioneer, Williams county, O. He is the son of John Fulton and Phoebe Elizabeth (Doolittle) Fulton. John Fulton was the third son and fifth child of a family of five sons and five daughters. They were Benjamin, Isabella, Peter Voris, Rachel M., John, George, William, Catherine, Elizabeth and Lovina. Each of the ten children married and raised a family, some of them quite large. Isabella was married to William Frisbie; Rachel M. to Jehial Moore; Catherine to Charles Gay; Elizabeth to Eliab Eggleston, and Lovina to Jesse Thorp. All lived at some time in Williams county and exerted an influence on its history. William Fulton, the grandfather of the subject, was born in Ireland in 1775, and, when but a small child, came with his parents to America and settled in Ohio where he worked as a mill-wright. Here he met and married Barbara Voris of English-Dutch descent. A family tradition relates that one of her ancestors, a young man by the name of Deafabaugh, selected his wife from a shipload of women that were brought to Virginia, paid her passage with tobacco and married her. William Fulton and his wife lived in Richland and Ashland counties until about 1850, when they and most of the children came to Williams county and settled near Pioneer. Phœbe Elizabeth Doolittle was the daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Doolittle and Nancy (Atwater) Doolittle and was born in Madison county, N. Y. Her father was born in Connecticut, in 1791, and came with his parents to New York state when he was about six years old. At the age of twenty he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, traveling as an itinerant in New York and Pennsylvania. Among the papers preserved in the family is a certificate of ordination, signed by Francis Asbury, and a certificate of ordination as deacon signed by William McKendree at Geneva, N. Y., on July 16, 1814. While traveling as a minister he met and married Nancy Atwater, a school teacher who was born in Cheshire township, New Haven county, Conn., a daughter of

Samuel and Patience (Peck) Atwater. After their marriage they lived for a time in Madison county, N. Y., where were born Carolina M., Francis A., Samuel Atwater, Phœbe E., and Benson E. With the exception of Francis, who was killed by a falling tree, all the children were afterwards connected with Williams county history. In the fall of 1833 Mr. Doolittle moved with his family from Madison county, N. Y., to Wayne county, Mich., and settled on a farm near the village of Dearborn. Here his wife Nancy died in 1845 from injuries received in a runaway accident. In 1848 he married Henrietta Norris, a sister of P. W. Norris, and in the spring of 1849 moved to Williams county and bought land in what is now the north part of Pioneer. To his second marriage was born Charles W. Doolittle. His second wife died in 1849 and he married Anna Burdick in 1852. He continued to preach occasionally and many of the older inhabitants remember his vigorous sermons. He was, for his hearty support of the government under Lincoln, a conspicuous figure in the village during the war, in spite of failing health. He died in September, 1865. John Fulton and Elizabeth Doolittle were married in 1852 and had four children, viz.: Warren L., the subject of this sketch; Ida M., who died in infancy; Elsie A., the wife of F. W. Grannis, near Pioneer, and Rolla E., who married Clara Diebely and lives in Detroit, Mich. In the spring of 1857, attracted by the glowing reports of the fertile prairies of Kansas, John Fulton, with his family, removed to that territory and settled eighteen miles south of Lawrence, in the edge of Franklin county, of which he was later chosen county commissioner. Two men lived near, who afterwards became noted, viz.: John Brown, whose "body lies mould'ring in the tomb," and Jim Lane, afterwards United States senator from Kansas. In the fall of 1860 the family returned to Ohio for a visit, driving through with a horse and wagon, and camping out every night but two of the five weeks required for the journey. The passage through Illinois was made during the most exciting time in the presidential campaign that resulted in the election of Abraham Lincoln. The breaking out of the Civil war prevented the return of the family to Kansas, and they again located in Williams county, north of the village of Pioneer. Though nearly eight years old on his return to Ohio, Warren had never attended school. His education, however, had not been neglected. He was trained by his mother, who had been a school teacher before her marriage and her ambition was that her son should teach. A two-room school building had been built in the village of Pioneer during the summer of 1860 and school was opened in the early winter with Dr. Hiner in charge of the "upper room" and Mary Ann Rogers in the "lower room." Here Warren began his school life under the instruction of Miss Rogers, and, in more minds than his, there were strangely and inseparably commingled the impressions made by the personality of the teachers with the impressions made by the stirring incidents resulting from the war. The war news, the speeches, the war meetings for the enlistment of volunteers, the martial music and especially the marching and training of the soldiers, all were echoed in, and mingled with the school life, and tended, no doubt, to foster an intense love of Country and develop an all-mastering desire to be of service to her. In 1869, having practically completed the work provided by the school, he attended one term in Professor C. W. Mycrantz's school in Bryan. This increased his desire for education. He seemed to have inherited from both father and mother a taste for instructive reading, and this taste was cultivated, for the home was always well provided with the best current literature that the family was able to provide. Before he was sixteen he was urged to take charge of a private or select school in Ransom, Mich., organized by a number of young men who had been his schoolmates at a select school in Pioneer. But when he found that the pupils were all older than himself he felt that it would be too much of an undertaking, and though his mother urged him to try it, he declined. Two years later he taught his first term, in Amboy township, Hillsdale county, Mich., and this was soon followed by others. In 1874 he attended a term of the Union school in Hillsdale, Mich., under Superintendent Robertson. In 1876 he visited the Centennial Exposition, going by way of Washington and returning through New York City, up the Hudson river and by Niagara Falls. In the fall of 1877 through the influence of his friend, Rev. L. T. Clark, he was led to enter the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware and took up the Normal course. This he completed in 1879, spending some months meanwhile in charge of the village schools of Larue, O., where he returned for the year '79-'80. In the fall of 1880 he was married to Elizabeth McCarty, daughter of Owen and Nancy (Gibbeny) McCarty, the latter Mr. McCarty's second wife. Mr. McCarty was one of the earliest settlers in Northwestern Ohio. He was born in 1811 in New Jersey, near the Delaware river. His father died when he was but a child and his mother moved to Detroit, Mich. Here he married Phila Ann Norris, a sister to P. W. Norris, and in the 40's he came to Williams county and settled on his land in Bridgewater township. Four daughters were born to this first wife, viz., Hannah, wife of Dan Gibbeny; Annette, wife of J. C. Blackford; Emily, wife of Morrison Osborn, and Marriette, wife ot Chris Howald. Mr. McCarty's first wife died about 1850 and in 1852 he married Nancy Gibbeny. They had two daughters and a son. The son died in infancy. The younger daughter, Cora, was married to C. V. Moats, and died in 1891, leaving one daughter, Cora Floy Moats. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fulton went to Delaware, O., when he again took up college work, entering the sophomore class and teaching some college classes, thus lightening expenses and at the same time gaining valuable experience. Mrs. Fulton meanwhile continued her studies with the piano. In 1881 he was elected to the principalship of the schools of Pioneer, O., a position which he held for five years.

While there their daughter Mildred was born. His father, John Fulton, died in 1882 and his father--in-law, Owen McCarty, in 1885. In 1886 he was again elected principal of the Larue school, but resigned before the close of the year and accepted a position in the general merchandise store of A. C. Marshall, in Pioneer, O. This position he left in the fall of 1888 to re-enter school work at Montpelier, O., being assigned to the charge of the grammar room under the superintendency of E. M. Counsellor, and on the resignation of the latter in 1889 he was chosen superintendent. This position he held for five years. While employed there their son Vincent was born. There also in 1891 his mother died. In the fall of 1894 he decided to return to college and complete his course. This he succeeded in doing in one year and was graduated in 1895 as one of the seventeen "honor men" in a class of ninety-nine members. While teaching at Larue he had been before the state board of school examiners and had received a certificate of the highest grade, authorizing him for life to teach in any public school in the State. In the fall of 1895 he secured a position as instructor in the Normal department of Michael's University in Logansport, Ind. He remained but one year, and in the fall of 1896 became superintendent of the schools of Clyde, O., a position which he held until 1900 when he returned to Williams county and took charge of the Alvordton school, where he is now serving his sixth year. In addition to his work in the public schools he has been a diligent worker in church and Sunday school, serving many years as superintendent. He was also for three years a member of the county board of school examiners and has served several terms as president of the county teachers' associations. In the spring of 1903 he was elected mayor of the village of Alvordton.

EDWARD GAUDERN, prosecuting attorney of Williams county, O., was born in Pioneer of that county on December 10, 1867. He is the son of Richard and Lucia R. (Pitts) Gaudern. The Gaudern family is of Norman stock. The first of the family to take up his abode in the United States, however, came from England. He was Richard Gaudern, who was born and reared in England, where he followed the calling of lace making. He came to America during the late twenties or the early thirties of the last century and located first in New York State. In 1835 he came West to Coshocton county, O., and five years later to Williams county, where he purchased a tract of land and carried on farming for many years. He became in time one of the leading and influential citizens of the county and served as a trustee of his township. He was an Abolitionist and a "conductor" on the "Underground Railroad" which assisted many a slave on his way to Canada and freedom. After coming to the United States he married Miss Abigail Stewart, the grandmother of the subject of this sketch, a daughter of Solomon W. Stewart, a distinguished man and noted educator, who for forty years taught school in and near the city of Hudson,

N. Y. He was a native of Scotland, belonging to a prominent family of that country. He came to America as a British soldier, was captured by the Colonial troops and afterwards became a loyal citizen of the United States. To Richard Gaudern and wife the following children were born· William; Catherine, the wife of Judge Martin Perkey; Mrs. Abigail Champion; Mrs. Theodosia Graves, and Richard, the father of Edward Gaudern. Dr. Richard Gaudern was for more than forty years a prominent and successful physician of Pioneer, Williams county, and was closely identified with the development of the county. He was born on July 26, 1832, in Oneida county, N. Y., and came with his parents to Williams county in 1840. He attended the common schools during his youth and in 1851 began the study of medicine. The next two years he attended medical lectures in Cincinnati, and in 1853 he began the practice of his profession in partnership with Dr. Jonas H. Roe, his preceptor. Two years later he opened an office in Pioneer, where he practiced continuously until his death in May, 1904. In 1868 he went to New York City and entered Bellevue Medical College, from which he graduated in 1873. From that time on the Doctor gave all of his time and attention to the practice of his profession. He was a progressive and public spirited man, and contributed largely to the building up and the development of the community. He was popular with the people, who fully appreciated his worth and ability, and he always enjoyed the esteem of the public in a full measure. Dr. Gaudern was always a Republican, casting his first vote for Gen. John C. Fremont for president. He was a delegate to the first Republican Congressional convention held in the district and was many times a delegate to state and county conventions. In religious matters he was identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1857 he married Miss Lucinda Pennell, a daughter of Rev. Abram Pennell, of New York State, a well-known and prominent Adventist minister, who dissented from the Wesleyan faith. One child was born to this union and that died at the age of three years. Mrs. Gaudern having died in 1862, the doctor during the following year married Miss Lucia R. Pitts, who was born in the State of New York and was a daughter of Peter Pitts, an influential and successful farmer. She died in 1870, leaving three children, as follows: Abigail S., Edward and Bessie. Abigail S. was a graduate of the scientific course of the University of Michigan in the class of 1895, and died in the spring of 1903; Bessie is now in Florida. In 1874 Dr. Gaudern married Mrs. Mary J. Gross, the daughter of John Kelley, a woolen manufacturer, who came to Williams county from Huron county, O. Edward Gaudern grew to manhood in his native town and received his early education in the graded schools of Pioneer. He afterwards entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, and graduated from that institution with the class of 1893. He then began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1895. Soon after his admission to the bar he began the practice of law in Bryan and has been located there ever since. In 1901 he received the nomination of the Republican party for the position of prosecuting attorney of Williams county and was triumphantly elected at the ensuing November election. So satisfactory was his administration of that office that in 1904 he was nominated and at the election following received the highest vote and the largest majority ever given a candidate for that office in Williams county. He is now serving his second term and it is safe to say that no other incumbent of the prosecutor's office in Williams county has ever been called upon to perform more important duties than has Mr. Gaudern. Aside from the usual official duties, it has fallen to him to conduct the prosecutions of the famous firebugs. So successful has Mr. Gaudern been and so painstaking in his work, that up to date not one of the men accused of arson has been acquitted. On April 15, 1897, Mr. Gaudern was united in marriage to Miss Cora Patton, who was born in Highland county, O., and is the daughter of James and Marjorie (Moore) Patton. She is a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University of the class of 1895. Mr. Gaudern is identified with the organization of the Knights of Pythias, and with his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Three children have been born to Edward Gaudern and wife. They are: Lucia, born in 1898; James, born in 1901, and Bruce, born in 1902.

WILLIAM GAUSE, one of the prominent young citizens and business men of Montpelier, O., and until very recently proprietor of the Gause House, the leading hotel and restaurant of the town, was born at Bloomingdale, Allen county, Ind., just across the river from Ft. Wayne, on October 23, 1871. He is the son of George and Catherine (Corder) Gause, the former a native of Circleville, Pickaway county, O., and the latter of Wabash county, Ind. His grandfather, John C. Gause, was a native of Hamburg, Germany, who came to the United States while still a boy, in 1831, locating first in Pennsylvania and afterwards at Dayton, O. When the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railway was being built he secured the contract for grading the roadbed and laying the ties from Ft. Wayne to Chicago. After securing this contract he removed from Dayton, O., to a farm adjoining the outskirts of Ft. Wayne, where he made his headquarters while the contract was under way. The extent of the contract may be inferred from the fact that he employed between five hundred and six hundred men during the entire time. After successful completion of the railway he retired from railroad contracting and devoted all of his time to other kinds of work, finally settling down on his farm. Later he removed to LaOtto, Noble county, Ind., where he was appointed postmaster, a position that he held until his death in 1902. His wife was a native of Germany, who emigrated to America when twenty years old. She died in 1889. The following children were born to these parents: George; Christian; Margaret, now Mrs. Wert; Katie, the wife of Mr. Pfeffer, and Philip. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Griffin Corder, born in Circleville in 1803, whose ancestors came from Germany to America in a very early day, settling first in Pennsylvania and afterwards removing to Ohio. He married Elizabeth Corder, a first cousin. From Circleville they removed to Wabash county, Ind., where both died, the former in 1881 and the latter a year later. These children were born to them: Sarah, the wife of Zack Young; Catherine, the mother of William Gause; William; and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Sam Jones. George Gause was born on the old Hanna farm, on the outskirts of Ft. Wayne, in 1843. He was a civil engineer by profession, and did much railroad work, the last being the contract to set the stakes for the old Eel River railroad, a contract completed twenty-eight years ago. He then removed to Roan, Ind., where he and his wife, born in 1851, are still living, and where he for a time was engaged in the milling business. To these parents there have been born six children, all of whom are still living. They are: William; Mary, still at home; Bert, a resident of Montpelier; Lessie, the wife of Wallie Wert, railroad agent at Roan, and Everett, hotel man at Danville, Ill. William Gause grew to manhood at Roan, Ind., where he attended the public schools in the daytime and worked in his father's saw mill at night. His first independent work was in ditch contracting, at which he made sufficient money to carry him through a two years' apprenticeship at the miller trade. After working at his trade for one year in Wabash, Ind., upon the advice of his physician, he quit the business altogether and turned his attention to bridge building on the Wabash railroad. He followed this avocation for three years, restoring his lungs to a healthy condition. In 1899 he bought what was then known as Perry's restaurant, located at the Wabash depot, Montpelier. This business was a limited one and carried on in a small building. In 1901 he began and completed the "Gause House." This building has fifty rooms, besides a large dining room and a convenient lunch room. Both the hotel business and the restaurant proved very profitable. From the original investment of $600 upon coming to Montpelier, Mr. Gause developed a property worth fully $15,000, and all of this was accomplished in five years. In 1903, he began to build a hotel and restaurant at Danville, Ill., but before the completion of the building it was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss to him of $4,000. His brother and he then formed a partnership and built the "Gause House," a railroad restaurant and hotel, in that city, which, under the management of his brother Everett, has proved a very profitable venture. Mr. Gause owns property at Roan and at Hamilton and Wausee Lakes, Ind., well known summer resorts. In the summer of 1905, Mr. Gause sold his hotel property at Montpelier, and is now engaged in the construction of a large summer resort hotel at Hamilton, Ind., upon a beautiful island in the lake at that place. He however retains his residence at Montpelier. He was the first man in Montpelier to put down cement walks. In the affairs of the Odd Fellow and Pythian organizations he has always taken an active part. On September 25, 1898, he was wedded to Miss Grace D. Stone, who was born on the old Slocum farm in Wabash county, Ind., February 16, 1878, and is the daughter of Elias F. and Mary A. (Matlock) Stone, the former being a twin brother of Guy Stone, superintendent of the Bluffton, Ind., electric light works.

SIMEON GILLIS, ex-auditor of Williams county and prominent and highly successful in the insurance business at Bryan, was born near Iberia, Morrow county, O., on May 2, 1842. He is the son of William and Jane (McLaren) Gillis, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Ireland. William Gillis was born in Harrison county, O., on May 11, 1813. He grew to manhood there, receiving such education as the common schools of that early day afforded, and at the age of nineteen years removed to Morrow county, where he began life as a farmer. He remained in Morrow county until 1845 and then removed to Williams county, where he bought eighty acres of land in Florence township, where he established a domicile and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. He soon became a leading citizen of the community and lived to a ripe old age, always enjoying the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. In public affairs he took a patriotic interest and assisted all projects that had in view the betterment of the community. He was a zealous Christian gentleman and affiliated with the Presbyterian church. On December 24, 1835, he was wedded in Morrow county to Miss Jane McLaren, whose parents came to Richland county about the same time that his parents came there. To this union the following children were born: Martha E. (deceased), one of the early school teachers of Williams county, who died unmarried at the age of twenty-three years; Rebecca M., the wife of Samuel A. Young, now a farmer of Northwest township, Williams county; Eliza J., wife of John W. Van Fossen, now living at Orland, Ind.; Simeon; James F., who enlisted in the fall of 1862 in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry and died in 1863 from a disease contracted in the service; William M., who died in 1877, at the age of thirty-one years; Mary, the wife of Benjamin Carpenter, now a resident of Montpelier, O.; Alexander C., a farmer of Orland, Ind.; Rhoda L., now Mrs. Edward L. Brooks, of Nebraska, and Sarah, who died at the age of eight years. Mr. Gillis died April 30, 1889, and his wife passed away in 1903. Simeon Gillis was but three years old when his parents removed to Williams county, and at the paternal home in Florence township he grew to manhood and received his education in the pioneer schools of that day, and in a commercial college, at Flint, Mich. The Civil war had been in progress but a few months, when, on October 22, 1861, as a boy of nineteen years he enlisted as a private in Company K, Sixty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry. With his regiment he went into camp, first at Napoleon and later at Camp Chase, O. The winter was spent in drilling and in other preparations for the hard campaigns that were to come. Early in the spring of 1862, upon the Sunday previous to the battle of Fort Donelson, his regiment left the Buckeye capital and reached the front in time to participate in the battle above mentioned. Simeon Gillis took part with his command in the operations that followed. From there the regiment marched to Pittsburg Landing, where during the battle of Shiloh it guarded the division camp. In the operations around Corinth the Sixty-eighth was constantly engaged in building bridges, roads and entrenchments and, after the evacuation, in guarding railroad lines and bridges. Then it was actively engaged in General Grant's Mississippi campaign in the fall of 1862. At Metamora the regiment was complimented in general orders for gallantry. The regiment took part in the expedition to penetrate Mississippi as far as Water Valley and then returned to Memphis, where the remainder of the winter was spent. In the spring of 1863 his regiment worked on various canals in Louisiana, and on April 10 moved to Milliken's Bend, where for a time it worked on military roads. On April 23, with the rest of the army the regiment began its march around Vicksburg, crossing swamps, bayous and swollen streams, and on May 1 crossed the Mississippi river at Bruinsburg, La., and after a forced march arrived on the battlefield while the battle of Thompson's Hill was in progress. After taking part in the battles of Raymond and Jackson the regiment participated in the battle of Champion Hill, which was destined to be the end of the military career of Simeon Gillis. Early in ths engagement he was wounded, a minnie ball piercing his left leg, making necessary the amputation of that limb below the knee. He lay on the battlefield from shortly after noon until sundown, when he was conveyed to the field hospital, where ten days later, on May 26, he was taken prisoner. On June 24 he was released and then remained in the hospital in Memphis until December of that year, when he received his final discharge. He then returned to Williams county, maimed and incapacitated for any kind of physical work. In the fall of 1866 he received the nomination of the Republican party for county auditor and was successful at the polls. In 1868 he was re-elected and again in 1871. As the result of a legislative act, changing the time of taking office, the period of eight months was added to his second term, making his incumbency of that office six years and eight months. In 1875 he engaged in the saw mill and lumber business, which he conducted successfully for two years. Then he associated with himself Charles A. Bowersox and A. W. Killits and bought the Bryan Press. After one year Mr. Killits withdrew and Mr. Bowersox sold his interest to Elisha M. Ogle, and the firm of Gillis & Ogle successfully conducted the paper for several years, when Mr. Gillis became the sole proprietor. In 1889 he sold the plant to Letcher & Roe and retired from the newspaper business. Soon after he entered the insurance field and also became a pension attorney and now has a fairly remunerative business at Bryan. On July 7, 1870, he was united in marriage to Miss Myra Ball, the daughter of Thomas and Phoebe (Wright) Ball, old residents of

Williams county. To this marriage there have been born four children, as follows: Ethel, now employed by the American Hay Company at Townley, N. J.; Faie, the wife of Omar L. Spangler, manager of the Bryan Independent Telephone Company; Harlan W., manager of the Shelbyville (Ky.), telephone plant; Donna, at home. Mr. Gillis is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and with his wife a member of the Presbyterian church.

JEROME D. GLEASON was a native of Williams county and a member of one of its representative pioneer families, while it was his to leave an unblemished record as a patriot, as a loyal citizen and as a reliable and progressive business man. He served during practically the entire course of the Civil war, after the close of which he identified himself with the business interests of the city of Bryan, being one of its prominent merchants and influential and honored citizens at the time of his death, on the 10th of September, 1900. His life was cut short by a pitiable accident, as he was killed by a train while crossing the tracks of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad. Mr. Gleason was born on the pioneer homestead, in Pulaski township, Williams county, O., on the 3d of May, 1839, being a son of Philetus S. and Jane (Douglass) Gleason, who were early settlers in the county, where they continued to reside until their death. He was reared to maturity on the home farm, aiding in its reclamation and cultivation, while his educational advantages were very limited, owing to the exigencies of time and place. He had just attained to his legal majority when the dark cloud of Civil war cast its pall over the national firmament, and he was among the first to tender his aid in suppression of the rebellion, which menaced the integrity of the nation. On the 1st of September, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for a term of "three years or during the war." The history of the famous old Thirty-eighth Ohio is practically the record of Mr. Gleason's military career, since he was with his command during its entire period of service. The regiment proceeded to Camp Dennison, at Columbus, where it received its equipment and was given preliminary tactical discipline. In October it was sent into the field, in Kentucky, encamping first at Nicholasville, where it remained two weeks, at the expiration of which it was ordered forward on a forced march of sixty miles to the relief of Wild Cat, that state. Thereafter, after pursuing and defeating the enemy on several occasions, the command went into winter quarters at Somerset, Ky. The winter proved a very trying one in the camp, owing to the prevalence of illness, and at one time less than three hundred out of the nine hundred and ninety men were available for active duty. In March, 1862, the regiment was ordered to Nashville, Tenn., and shortly afterward became concerned in the campaign through the middle part of that state. Within the months of April and May it participated in the siege of Corinth, pursued Beauregard to Bonneville and returned to Corinth. In June the regiment marched to Tuscumbia, Ala., and in August to

Winchester, Tenn., after which followed the terrible march from Chattanooga to the Ohio river. After the battle of Chaplin Hill, Ky., the command was identified with the campaign work in that state, and on the 27th of October went into camp at Rolling Fork. From this point was made another march to Nashville, and for a time the Thirty-eighth Ohio guarded the railroad between that city and Gallatin, while in September it took part in the sanguinary battle of Stone River. Thereafter it was stationed near Murfreesboro until March, 1863, when it moved to Triune and constructed Fort Phelps. Thereafter it was actively concerned in the Tullahoma campaign, and in August the entire corps of which it was a part proceeded over the Cumberland mountains, crossing the Tennessee river at Shell Mound, and thence moving onward over Lookout and Raccoon mountains to the Lookout valley, where were made immediate preparations for battle. The Thirty-eighth Ohio, under special order from General Thomas, was then charged with the guarding of the transit to Chattanooga of the supply train of the entire army, and by reason of this detail it escaped the memorable battle of Chickamauga. At the assault on Mission Ridge the regiment, in the face of terrific cannon fire, moved to the very summit of the ridge, at the cost of seven men killed and forty-one wounded. Thereafter it pursued the enemy to Ringgold, Ga., after which it returned to Chattanooga and veteranized, its members being given a furlough of thirty days. This period was one of exceptional nature for the Williams county members of the regiment, who were received in their home county with the utmost enthusiasm and rejoicing, being deluged with marks of popular esteem, including banquets, speeches, toasts, flowers, etc. At the expiration of the furlough they reported at Ringgold, Ga., where the depleted ranks of the regiment were raised to seven hundred and forty-one men, after which the command again faced the stern realities of warfare, most of the members being seasoned veterans, as was Mr. Gleason. In May, 1864, the regiment took part in several skirmishes about Buzzard Roost Gap and its fortifications, nearly in the rear of Resaca, losing several in killed and wounded. It took an active part in the siege of Kenesaw Mountain; marched, in July, to the Chattahoochie river; established the picket line of the Fourteenth Army Corps near Atlanta; and early in August moved to May creek. After various expeditions the regiment, with the entire brigade, assaulted the enemy's works at Jonesboro, making a desperate fight and meeting with the appalling loss of forty-two killed and one hundred and eight wounded, out of a total of three hundred and sixty men engaged. All of the superior officers having been either killed or wounded in the early part of this engagement, Mr. Gleason, as third duty sergeant, commanded the company to the close of the battle, and for this noteworthy service was declared by his comrades to be worthy of promotion. After the battle there were but two men in the company able to stack arms and answer the roll call, and one of these was Mr. Gleason, who had been in the very thick of the fray. After pursuing Hood for a considerable distance, the regiment rejoined the Union forces at Atlanta and thence accompanied General Sherman on the ever-memorable march to the sea After doing provost duty at Milledgeville, the regiment destroyed the bridge across the big Ogeechee, and on December 21, 1864, went into camp near Savannah, Ga. The following spring it participated in the campaign through the Carolinas, and after the surrender of General Lee, Mr. Gleason proceeded with his regiment to the national capital, where they participated in the Grand Review. From Washington Mr. Gleason was ordered with his company to Texas, but while they were en route the order was countermanded, the men receiving their discharge from the service on the 5th of July, 1865, at Louisville, Ky. Soon after his return to his home, in Williams county, Mr. Gleason established himself in the grocery business in Bryan, his headquarters having been in the old Denny building, on the north side of the public square. Two years later he entered into partnership with Joseph B. Jones, under the firm name of Jones & Gleason, and for the ensuing fifteen years they controlled a large business in the buying and shipping of produce. In 1885 Mr. Gleason again engaged in the grocery trade, in Bryan, being identified with this enterprise until his death and having built up an excellent business, which has since been continued by his sons. On the 2d of November, 1865, Mr. Gleason was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Newman, who survives him, as do their five children, namely: Harry N., who is now a resident of the state of Washington; Fred S., who is senior member of the firm of Gleason Brothers, successors to the business of his father; Vera E., who is the wife of Walter Robson, of West Unity, this country; Olen W., who is junior member of the firm of Gleason Brothers; and George B., who is employed in the store of his brothers. Jerome D. Gleason was signally public-spirited in his attitude and the interests of his home city and county lay close to his heart, while in all the relations of life he commanded the unequivocal confidence and esteem of those with whom he came in contact.

SYDNEY M. GLEASON, a prominent retired merchant of Bryan, is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Williams county, O. Luther Gleason, the progenitor of the family in America, was born in Wales and emigrated to the United States in early manhood. He located in the state of New York, where he followed the occupation of farming, and where he was wedded to Miss Lydia Ryder, a native of Connecticut. Philetus S. Gleason, the son of Luther and Lydia (Ryder) Gleason, was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., June 24, 1814. He grew to manhood there, receiving a common school education, and at an early age was apprenticed to learn the cabinet maker's trade. At the age of twenty-one, however, he left the haunts of his boyhood and removed to Williams county, O., where he entered a tract of land in Springfield township, and began life as a pioneer settler in a locality which was then still in a state of nature. In addition to the arduous labors incident to the clearing of a farm, he worked at his trade whenever opportunity afforded. After a residence of two years in Springfield township he removed to Pulaski township, where he continued to reside until the fall of 1865, when he moved to Bryan, and resided there until his death in 1891. On September 13, 1835, he was married in New York to Miss Jane Douglass, who died April 29, 1854. They were the parents of the following six children: George B., a resident for many years of Toledo, where he died; Jerome D., deceased; Letty J., the wife of Frank Teeter of New York State; Sydney M., of Bryan; Emily, deceased; and Alfred, deceased. On March 1, 1855, Mr. Gleason was wedded to Mrs. Mary McNary, nee Bostater. To this marriage three children were born, of whom only one is living. Their names follow: Emma F., deceased; Charles E., deceased; and Alvin Frank, a resident of Toledo, O. Sydney M. Gleason, the son of Philetus S. and Jane (Douglass) Gleason, was born in Pulaski township, Williams county, O., August 2, 1842, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the common schools. In 1861, at the early age of nineteen years, he removed to the state of New York and began life as a farmer. Those were stirring times, however, and to the patriotic youth the pursuits of a farmer were not attractive when his country's life was in danger. Therefore, on August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company G of the One Hundred and Ninth New York volunteer infantry. His company was detached from the regiment and detailed to guard the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and to arrest deserters until the latter part of 1863, when they joined the Ninth army corps under General Burnside, and in 1864 engaged in the Eastern campaign under General Grant. Mr. Gleason participated in the battle of the Wilderness, and on May 6, 1864, was seriously wounded, receiving a minie-ball in the left hip. He was sent to Fredericksburg, where he obtained such aid as the circumstances permitted, and after remaining there for twenty days he was transferred to Washington. He remained in the Capital City until December 15, 1864, when he was discharged for disability. Returning to New York in January, 1865, he was elected door-keeper of the New York house of representatives for one session. Then he returned to Ohio and soon thereafter engaged in the grocery business in Bryan in company with his brother, Jerome D. This partnership was dissolved at the expiration of two years, when Mr. Gleason began clerking in a hardware store. In 1870 he embarked in the hardware business in partnership with D. C. Baxter, and for many years the firm of Gleason & Baxter operated one of the leading hardware stores in the county. Sydney M. Gleason is a Republican, and with his family a member of the Presbyterian church. On May 3, 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Kate Shorthill, the daughter of James Shorthill, deceased, who had settled in Williams county in an early day. To Mr. and Mrs. Gleason there were born three children, whose names follow: Ora, deceased; Bertha, the wife of Edward Henning of Bryan, and Claire, now Mrs. Ray Straight of Bryan. Mrs. Gleason died on November 27, 1900.

CHRISTIAN D. GOELTZENLEUCHTER, a highly respected farmer of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., is of German descent. His paternal grandfather was Christian Goeltzenleuchter, a native of Bavaria, Germany, where he died. His paternal grandmother was Catherine (Deihl) Goeltzenleuchter, also a native of Bavaria, Germany. The maternal grandparents were Henry and Catherine (Gilbert) Shaefer, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to America and settled in Stark county, O., in 1837, where he died in 1844, and his widow, surviving him twelve years, died in DeKalb county, Ind. The parents of Christian D. Goeltzenleuchter were Philip R. and Dorotha (Shaefer) Goeltzenleuchter, both natives of Pirmasens, Bavaria, Germany. They were married in their native country and came to the United States in 1837, locating near Waynesburg, Stark county, where they resided for seven years and then removed to St. Joseph township, Williams county, settling on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. In politics he was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the German Baptist church. They were the parents of six sons and five daughters, of whom five sons and two daughters are still living. He died on his farm December 3, 1872, aged sixty-two years. Christian D. Goeltzenleuchter was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools of his home county. At the age of five years he came with his parents to Williams county and has lived there ever since. While he learned and followed for some time the carpenter trade, he has made farming his principal occupation. On his farm of fifty-three acres he lives a happy and contented life. In politics he is a Democrat. Being greatly interested in school affairs, he has served some years on the school board. Although baptized into the Lutheran church, he with his wife is a member of the Evangelical Association. In 1873 he was wedded to Miss Catherine Hollinger, the daughter of Carl Hollinger, mentioned elsewhere in this work. He and wife are the parents of three children. They are: Owen Washington, born February 21, 1877, and died in December, 1883, aged nearly seven years; Glen V., born November 22, 1883, educated in the public schools, having twice passed the Boxwell examination, and a farmer and engineer by occupation, and residing at the old home; Rose L., born July 22, 1887, attended the public schools and now resides with her parents.

LEWIS RUDOLPHUS GOELTZENLEUCHTER, a well-to-do and highly respected farmer of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Stark county, of that state, on July 20, 1843. He is the son of Philip R. Goeltzenleuchter, mentioned in the above memoir. He was only one year old when his parents settled in Williams county, where he grew to manhood, receiving a fair education in the public schools of that county. In 1866 he began working at the carpenters' trade and followed it until 1872, when he located on a farm of sixty acres, bought by him out of his earnings, and there he has ever since resided, following general farming and stock-raising. In politics he is independent and in religious matters he entertains very liberal views.

On December 17, 1868, he was wedded to Miss Sophia Eve, born in Erie county, N. Y., July 14, 1848, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Rech) Eve, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to the United States in 1847 and settled near Buffalo, N. Y. From Buffalo they came to Williams county, locating on a farm one-half mile north and one mile west of Edgerton, where both died in 1858, the father aged sixty-two and the mother fifty-two years. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Goeltzenleuchter were Henry and Maria (Raap) Eve, who lived and died in France. Her maternal grandparents were Christian and Catherine Rech, both natives of Germany. Christian Rech emigrated to America and after a residence of seven years returned to his native land, where he married and spent the remainder of his life. To Lewis Rudolphus Goeltzenleuchter and wife three children have been born. They are: George E., born September 23, 1869, educated in the public schools, and a farmer by occupation, being the owner of eighty acres of land; Lewis Lavernie, born in Williams county July 12, 1884; Cora Viola, born February 9, 1887, educated in the public schools, and the wife of Leonard A. Richly of Pioneer, O. Laura F. Bluntschly, an adopted daughter, was born May 29, 1878, and at eighteen years of age married Edwin Ellis and moved to Wood county, O.

WESLEY B. GREEK, who is now numbered among the representative agriculturists of Madison township, was for many years identified with educational work, in which he met with marked success, being a man of high scholastic attainments. Professor Greek was born in Hancock county, O., January 28, 1848, and is a son of Frederick and Martha (Brubaker) Greek, both of whom were born in Lancaster county, Pa., the former in 1811 and the latter in 1814. Their marriage was solemnized in the old Keystone state, whence they came to Williams county and settled in Madison township, where the father reclaimed a farm of eighty acres and became one of the substantial men of the township, where he held the high regard of all who knew him. In politics he was a stanch Republican, ever taking an intelligent interest in the questions of the day, and both he and his wife were earnest members of the German Baptist Brethren church. They became the parents of fourteen children, of whom six sons and three daughters are living. Frederick Greek died on the 30th of November, 1895, his wife having passed away on the 5th of February, 1894. Professor Greek passed his boyhood days on the homestead farm and after completing the curriculum of the common schools of the locality he continued his studies in the normal school at Bryan, this county, while later he was a student in the celebrated University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Later he attended the Ohio Central Normal School, from which he graduated. After receiving his diploma he continued to be engaged in pedagogic work for a number of years, having taught one year at West Unity, Williams county, six years at Pioneer and four years at Stryker in the same county, after which he was identified with the dry-goods business in Stryker for two and one-half years and with a mercantile enterprise in Bryan for two years. In 1890 he went to Calera, Shelby County, Ala., where he was engaged in the manufacturing of lumber for one year, at the expiration of which he was appointed postmaster at Columbiana, the judicial center of the same county, retaining this incumbency two and one-half years, after which he rendered effective service for five years as principal of the public schools at that place, and thereafter taught one year in the schools of Center, Cherokee county, Ala., and two years at Aldrich, Shelby county. He then returned to Williams county, O., and after serving one year as superintendent of the West Unity public schools he located upon the farm which is now his home, this being in the year 1901. The fine farm upon which he resides comprises one hundred and sixty acres and is a part of the estate of the late George Throne, while he also personally owns a well improved farm of forty acres in the same section of the township. In politics Professor Greek accords an unswerving allegiance to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. October 25, 1874, Professor Greek was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Stiving, daughter of the late Philip Stiving, of Madison township, of whom specific mention is made in the article dedicated to his sons, George W. and Peter O., appearing elsewhere in this publication. Mr. and Mrs. Greek have eight children: Laura Elva, Clement Erb, Mary Ethel, Mabel Edna, Fred Herman, Leah Beatrice, and William McKinley.

FREDERICK GRISIER is one of the most venerable of the pioneer citizens of Williams county, where he has resided for more than sixty years, aiding in the development of the agricultural resources of the county and proving true to all the responsibilities implied in honorable and loyal citizenship. Mr. Grisier was born in the little village of Bretigny, in the department of the Deaux, northern France, on the 18th of September, 1819, his native place being about six miles distant from the city of Lille. He is a son of Andre and Elizabeth Grisier, both of whom were born in the same village of Bretigny, where they passed their entire lives, being plain and honest folk and living lives of signal usefulness, the father having been a weaver by trade, while he also followed gardening. They became the parents of seven children, all of whom came to America but one: James settled in Fulton county, O., where he died; Peter died in Williams county, having settled here many years ago; Jacob died in his native land; George was a resident of Fulton county at the time of his death; Frederick, of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Peter James was a resident of Williams county at time of death; and Catherine became the wife of Peter Beucler, of this county, both being now deceased. Frederick Grisier was reared to manhood in his native land, and in 1842, when twenty-three years of age, he immigrated to America, locating in Williams county soon after his arrival in the new world. Here he remained about eighteen months and then returned to France, where, on the 19th of March, 1844, he was united in marriage to Miss Susan Virnier, who was born in his home village of Bretigny, on the 15th of

June, 1822. He remained in France about eighteen months and then came with his bride to America and took up his permanent residence in Williams county, where they have ever since maintained their home. In 1845 Mr. Grisier purchased a tract of land in Springfield township, while later, as prosperity crowned his efforts, he made additional purchases of land, securing seventy-three acres, in Section 3, later securing another tract, of twenty acres, in the same section, and still later coming into possession of eighty acres in Section 11. Practically all of his land, separated by several miles into two farms, was wild at the time he came into possession of the same, and he reclaimed a large part to cultivation and made good improvements, while he still owns about one hundred and seventy-three acres. The first family home was a log cabin, which he built on his first purchase, and on that homestead he continued to reside until December, 1904, since which time he has lived retired in Stryker. In politics Mr. Grisier is a stanch adherent of the Republican party, with which he has been identified from practically the time of its organization, and while he has never sought office he was chosen one of the first school directors of Springfield township and has never failed to manifest a lively interest in local affairs. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. To them were born ten children, concerning whom the following data are consistently entered in this connection: Louis J. is engaged in the dry-goods business at Jefferson, Ia.; Henry G. resides in Stryker; Adolphus P. is deceased; Frederick G. is a popular physician and surgeon of Columbia City, Ind.; George C., a tinner by trade, is a resident of Jefferson, Ia.; William P. is engaged in the furniture business in Stryker; Adelle remains at the parental home; Julia died March 11, 1862, at the age of eighteen months; L. E. died February 2, 1898; and Eugenia is the wife of Irvin Jodry, a successful farmer of Springfield township.

BLAIR HAGERTY, M. D., of Montpelier, the subject of this sketch, was born in Richland county, O., in 1840. His parents, Blair and Rebecca (Goodrich) Hagerty were of Irish and English descent. They were formerly from Pennsylvania, then moved to Richland county, where they cleared up a farm and made their home while they lived. The Doctor had three brothers, now deceased, and three sisters, of which two, Mrs. William Knaur of Pioneer, O., and Mrs. Lewis Britton of Hillsdale, Mich., are still living. The Doctor is one of the successful physicians and surgeons of Northwestern Ohio, served three years in the war of the Rebellion, and has served his county as coroner and represented it in the State legislature, and for four years he was examining surgeon on the Board of Pension Examiners.

JACOB C. HALM, manager of the Halm Brewing company of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born on a farm in Defiance county, O., on July 15, 1864. His ancestors were natives of South Germany and had their residence for many generations near Baltmannweiler, Schorndorf, Wurtemberg. The parents of Jacob C. Halm were Jacob and Caroline (Keisel) Halm. His grandfather, Jacob Halm, was a wealthy farmer and land owner. Jacob Halm, the father of Jacob C. Halm, was born at Baltmannweiler in 1834 and received his education in the excellent schools of his native village. In 1854 he emigrated to the United States, landing at New York City, where he obtained employment in a large wholesale wine and liquor house. Four years later he came to Ohio to look this section of the country over, with a view to locating here. The prospects not being sufficiently inviting, he returned to New York. In 1863 he again came to Ohio, the development of the country being far advanced by that time, and located at Bryan, engaging in mercantile pursuits. Here he purchased several lots on the north side of the public square, one of them being the present site of the First National bank building. The following year he sold his busines and property and removed to Defiance county, O., where he purchased a farm. In 1865 he returned to Bryan and bought of Henry Arnold the old brewery, a very crude affair. In 1873 he removed the old frame building and erected a modern brick structure, whose dimensions are ninety feet square and four stories high, exclusive of the basement, which he equipped with the best and most modern machinery for the manufacture of beer, free from all adulteration. The water was taken from an artesian well and sterilized before using, thus securing absolute purity. The product of this brewery became at once quite popular and the business rapidly increased from year to year, bringing deserved prosperity to Mr. Halm and making him one of the most prominent and substantial business men of Bryan. He was actively identified with the Democratic party, was an Odd Fellow and also a Mason and a member of the German Lutheran church. On October 20, 1858, he was married to Miss Caroline Kiesel, whom he had known from childhood, a native of Baltmannweiler, where she was born May 26, 1834. She came to America in 1853. On March 7, 1883, while inspecting some machinery in his brewery, Mr. Halm's sleeve was caught by a set screw on a revolving shaft and he was instantly killed. His widow died June 15, 1895. To their union were born the following children: Caroline, who died unmarried at the age of twenty years; Rosa, the wife of A. G. Helwig, a resident of Kendallville, Ind.; Jacob C.; Julia, now Mrs. F. H. Kreagloh of Bryan, and William, who died single in 1892, aged twenty-three years. Jacob C. Halm secured his education in the public schools of Bryan and from boyhood took an interest in the brewery, having mastered its details before reaching manhood. On the death of his father, although only eighteen years old, he assumed the management of the business, which position he now holds. Under his direction many improvements have been made and the capacity of the plant increased to meet the demand of its product. For several years he has been recognized as one of Bryan's leading citizens, faithfully filling his father's place, both in the community and in the brewery. He is prominent both in a social and public way, and has served as township treasurer. In the Masonic and Odd

Fellow organizations he is quite prominent. On December 13, 1887, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Millie M. Rankert, the daughter of Michael Rankert, an honest and venerable citizen of Bryan, who was born in Alsace, Germany, in 1815, and served several years as a soldier in the French cavalry in the African campaigns. The children of Jacob C. Halm and wife here follow: Lorine, born January 6, 1890, and died at the age of eight months; Jacob Charles, born April 5, 1891, and Arthur William, born September 30, 1893.

JOSIAH P. HANNA, who is engaged in the agricultural implement business in the village of Pioneer, where he has built up a large and prosperous enterprise in the line, is also the owner of a fine farm in the county and has here maintained his home from his boyhood days, while to him is accorded a full measure of popular confidence and esteem in the community. Josiah Perry Hanna was born in Wayne county, O., on the 14th of January, 1846, and is a son of Thomas and Priscilla (Barton) Hanna, both of whom were born in Beaver county, Pa. Alexander Hanna, the paternal grandfather, was likewise born in Pennsylvania, whence he came with his family to Ohio in an early day, locating two and one-half miles north of Wooster, Wayne county, where he reclaimed a farm, there continuing to reside for many years. His wife died in that county and he passed the closing days of his life in St. Louis, Mo. Thomas Barton, maternal grandfather of Josiah P. Hanna, was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio more than a century ago, settling five miles north of Wooster, Wayne county, where he died in 1867, while his wife, whose maiden name was Crawford, likewise died in that county, having been born and reared in the old Keystone state. Thomas Hanna was a school teacher and singing master in his earlier years, was a carpenter by trade and was the owner of a farm in Wayne county at the time of his death, which there occurred in the year 1849, at which time he was in the very prime of an honorable and useful life. Soon after his death his widow and her seven children came to Williams county and located in what was known as the Smith settlement, in Bridgewater township, where she passed the residue of her life, being summoned to the "land of the leal" in February, 1869. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church, as was also her husband, whose political faith was that of the Whig party. Josiah P. Hanna was reared on a farm in Bridgewater township, and the schools of the locality afforded him his early educational privileges. He continued to be actively engaged in agricultural pursuits after initiating his independent career, and he also engaged in the manufacturing of brick and tile, with which line of enterprise he continued to be identified until 1898, while he retired from the farm in 1886. In the former year he located in Pioneer and engaged in the farming implement and machinery business, in which he has since continued, while his progressive and liberal policy and straightforward methods have enabled him to build up a most prosperous enterprise, his supporting patronage being derived from a wide radius of country about Pioneer. He is still concerned in farming and stock-growing, owning two hundred and twenty acres of land in Madison and Bridgewater townships. He is a stalwart Republican in his political adherency, and is at the present time a member of the village council of Pioneer. July 29, 1866, Mr. Hanna was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Culver, who was born in Huron county, O., April 15, 1848, being a daughter of John and Rhoda (Barnes) Culver. Her father was born in Meigs county, O., August 2, 1825, and in 1849 he removed to Branch county, Mich., where he remained until 1861, when he came to Williams county, locating in Pioneer, where he and his wife still maintain their home. Mr. Culver served one year in the Union ranks during the civil war, having been corporal in Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry. He is a son of Amos and Phoebe (Gates) Culver, the former of whom was born in Meigs county, O., June 29, 1798, and the latter of whom was born at Bolton, Warren county, N. Y., November 11, 1800, and their marriage was solemnized May 5, 1823. Amos Culver resided for a time in Huron county, O., whence he removed to Branch county, Mich., in 1848, there passing the remainder of his life. He died September 1, 1867, and his wife died in the same county. John Barnes, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Hanna, was born in Vermont, January 18, 1793, and his wife, whose maiden name was Betsy Squires, was born in the same state, February 15, 1795. They came to Huron county, O., about 1820, and there he died in 1852, while she lived until 1882, attaining the venerable age of eighty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Hanna became the parents of seven children, namely: Effie Aurelia, Minnie (deceased), Frederick, Lulu (killed by lightning when ten years of age), Grace (deceased in infancy), Carmie (deceased), and Bessie, who resides at home. Mr. Hanna is identified with the local organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

CHARLES M. HARRIS, a prominent and highly successful citizen of Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in Madison county, Ia. He is the son of Enoch Harris, a native of Madison county, Ind., where he was a prominent and highly esteemed citizen. Charles M. Harris grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a fair public school education. He removed to Nebraska when quite young, where he purchased and successfully operated for some time a cattle ranch. Since 1900 he has resided at Edgerton and engaged in the agricultural implement business, meeting with the same success that has attended all of his efforts in a business way. The fact that he has been successful is further evidenced by his ownership of four fine farms located in this and Defiance counties, the product of his own efforts. In 1897 he was wedded to Miss Clara Mast of Edgerton, the daughter of John Mast, a pioneer settler of Williams county, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. Two children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, John J. and Charles Mercile. Charles M. Harris has just cause to be proud of the record that he has made. By dint of hard, earnest work, close application to business and a keen foresight he has won success. He is the soul of honor and has never taken advantage of the misfortunes of his fellow men to accumulate riches. All that he has he has made fairly and honestly. The young man just starting out in life would be highly profited by reading in detail the life of Charles M. Harris.

BION L. HART, a well-to-do farmer and prominent citizen of Bridgewater township, is a native of the same township, in Williams county, O., where he was born on October 1, 1860. He is the son of Alonzo and Rachel (Willard) Hart, the former born in Avon, Conn., November 9, 1806, and the latter in Kent, Portage county, O., June 17, 1821. After their marriage in Portage county his parents came to Williams county in 1843 and settled on a farm of eighty acres, where the father died November 19, 1888, the mother surviving until December 28, 1904. Alonzo Hart assisted in surveying the Toledo and Angola road and was a contractor in the construction of the Erie canal. He also followed teaching and farming. In politics he was first a Whig and then a Republican. Taking a deep interest in public affairs, he served some years as township clerk and justice of the peace. He was prominently identified with the National Grange. Of the five sons that he sent to the Civil war four returned home at its close: Edwin Ellsworth died in the service. The maternal grandfather of Bion L. Hart, Philip Willard, was an early settler in Portage county, where his wife died. After her death he removed to Bridgewater township, Williams county, and died there in 1860. Bion L. Hart was reared on a farm and received his education by attending the common schools of his home county and the Montpelier high school. For some years he taught school very successfully in Ohio and Illinois, but more recently has devoted all of his time to farming, residing on the homestead. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party.

CALVIN HATHAWAY, M. D., a prominent and highly successful physician of Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in Knox county of that state in 1839. His ancestors were prominent in Washington county, Pa., where they took an active part in public affairs. Members of this family served with distinction in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. His grandfather, Joseph Hathaway, was a distinguished and highly respected citizen of Washington county, Pa., from whence he removed to Warren county, O., and thence to Knox county, where he died at a ripe old age. Richard and Lorinda (Bates) Hathaway, the parents of Doctor Hathaway, were both natives of Ohio, the former having been born in Warren county and the latter in Knox county. Mrs. Richard Hathaway was the daughter of Calvin Bates, who removed to Ohio from Connecticut in an early day. Dr. Calvin Hathaway grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools of his native county. Having chosen medicine as his profession, he first attended the medical department of the University of Michigan and afterwards the Medical College of Cincinnati, graduating from the latter institution in 1863. Immediately after graduating he was commissioned by Gov. Brough as an assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Ohio volunteer infantry, with the rank of captain, and the following year, at fort Powhatan, was made surgeon, with the rank of major. Upon the expiration of his regiment's term of service he returned home. In 1864 he began the practice of medicine at Edgerton, where he now enjoys a very extensive and lucrative business. His prominence is further evidenced by the fact that for ten years he served as surgeon for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway company, a position of great responsibility, which he filled with credit to himself and with the best of results for the company. In 1884 he was appointed United States surgeon of the pension board at Toledo, O., on which board he served four years. In 1897 President McKinley appointed Dr. Hathaway a member of the Pension Board of Williams county, which position he still holds. Notwithstanding his extensive practice, Dr. Hathaway has found time to engage in other business affairs in which he has likewise been very successful. In banking affairs he is largely interested, being a director of the Farmers' National Bank, Bryan, O., and until recently was president of the First National Bank of Montpelier, O. He is also president of the Ohio Shingle and Lumber company of the State of Washington. In politics he was identified with the Democratic party until the money question was made the chief issue, when he became an ardent advocate of the gold standard cause. Doctor Hathaway married Miss Harriet E. Hutcheson, the daughter of Amos and Laura (Mead) Hutcheson, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. Of the four children that have been born to Doctor and Mrs. Hathaway only one is living, Jessie, who resides at home. Dr. Hathaway is a Knight of Pythias and is a member of Walter Slaughter Post, G. A. R.

JAMES H. HATHEWAY, a retired farmer and lumber dealer of Edon, Williams county, O., was born in Carroll county of that State on April 22, 1843. His grandfather, Joseph Hatheway, was a pioneer settler of Tuscarawas county, O., where he spent his mature life and declining days. James Hagerty, the maternal grandfather of James H. Hatheway, was probably of Irish birth, who came to Carroll county, O., in pioneer days and died in Steuben county, Ind. James H. Hatheway is the son of Samuel and Isabella (Hagerty) Hatheway, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Tuscarawas county in 1818 and the latter in Harrison county on November 7, 1823. Samuel Hatheway grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools. After serving an apprenticeship at the saddle and harness maker's trade he spent a great portion of his life in Carroll and Harrison counties, plying his trade. In 1865, with his family, he removed to Steuben county, Ind., where he resided until his death. In politics he was first a Whig, then a Know Knothing and finally a Republican. In religious belief he affiliated with the Baptist church, his wife being a devout member of the Church of God. He died on

September 23, 1890, and his widow on October 8, 1900. Of the three sons and three daughters born to these parents two sons and three daughters are yet living, the youngest son, Alonzo, having died at Hudson, Ind. James H. Hatheway was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of Carroll and Harrison counties. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C of the Forty-third Ohio volunteer infantry and served until the close of the war, his command having taken part in the battles of Corinth, New Madrid, Island No. 10 and many other minor engagements. For seven months and three days he was confined in the military prisons at the following places: Cahaba, Macon, Ga., Milan, Savannah, Black Shier Station and Andersonville. After the war he came to Harrison county, O., where he engaged in farming and the lumber business until April 7, 1904, when he removed to Edon, where he lives a retired life. In addition to his residence property he owns three acres of land in Edon. Mr. Hatheway is a Republican, having served as trustee of Monroe township, Harrison county, O., and school director. He was a member of the Senior Order of American Mechanics, and is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and the Grand Army of the Republic. On December 25, 1865, he was wedded to Miss Mary Mahala Fisher of Harrison county, O., the daughter of George and Sybilla Margaret (Shamel) Fisher, pioneer settlers of that county, the latter having entered government land there in an early day. To Mr. Hatheway and wife the following children were born: Samuel George, Lottie Belle, Loren Alonzo, Joseph Albert and Eva Almeda. His wife having died on February 11, 1901, Mr. Hatheway, on June 10, 1902, married Mrs. Elizabeth Maxwell, the widow of Samuel Maxwell.

FRANCIS MARION HAUGHEY, of Northwest township, was born in the township where he resides, in Williams county, O., on March 19, 1857. He is the son of Robert King and Susanna (Coolman) Haughey, the former born in Ashland county, O., September 6, 1827. The grandparents of F. M. Haughey were Robert and Hannah (Wycoff) Haughey, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ohio. Robert Haughey located in Steuben county, Ind., in an early day and there died. His widow died in Northwest township. Robert King Haughey was reared on a farm and received his education by attending the common schools. For three years he was successfully engaged in teaching in his home township. In 1849 he located on a farm of eighty acres in Northwest township and in 1850 added eighty acres to it. The fact that he filled nearly all of the township offices and that of county commissioner proves that he took a deep interest in public affairs and that he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. In politics he was an active Republican. To him and wife there were born seven children, four of whom are still living. He died on the homestead, July 27, 1904, his wife having died on February 18 of the same year. Francis M. Haughey was reared on a farm and received his education by attending the common schools of his home county. He is now the owner of eighty acres of the homestead, where he is successfully engaged in general farming and breeding short horned and Polled Durham cattle. As a Republican he has held the office of township trustee, and at present he is a member of the school board. He is a member of Camden Lodge, No. 312, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the organization of the Patrons of Husbandry, being a member of Acme Grange of South Camden, and is also a member of the National Grange. In 1881 he was wedded to Miss Anna Tyrrill, of Hillsdale county, Mich., and the daughter of David Tyrrill, an early settler of the county where he ended his days. To F. M. Haughey and wife there have been born the following children: Minnie E., the wife of William Carrothers, of Camden township, Hillsdale county, Mich., by whom she has had one child, Francis by name; Nellie M., the wife of Otto Gilmore of the same township; Clara B., Evaline and Lura, all of whom are living.

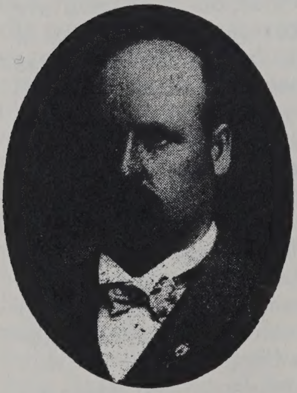
ALBERT C. HAUSE is the present incumbent of the responsible executive office of cashier of the First National Bank of Montpelier, and is a member of a family whose name has been identified with the annals of Williams county for half a century. Mr. Hause was born in Superior township, this county, on the 6th of March, 1871, and is a son of Samuel and Margaret (Beard) Hause. His grandfather, William Hause, was native of the State of Maryland, where the family was early founded, and he was for many years engaged in the meat-market business in Hagerstown, where he died. His children were six in number, five sons and one daughter. Samuel Hause was born near Hagerstown, Md., and there was reared and educated, being identified with agricultural pursuits in that locality until his removal to Ohio in an early day. He first settled in Seneca county, later removed to Clark county, having been engaged in farming in both localities, and about 1855 he came with his family to Williams county and purchased a tract of land in Superior township, where he has since maintained his home, having now one of the well-improved and valuable farms of the county and being one of the representative citizens of his township. His wife, who was likewise born in Maryland, is a daughter of Samuel and Sophia Beard. The children of this union are six in number, namely: Charles, who is a farmer of Superior township, as are also William and Daniel; Celia, who is the wife of George McIntosh, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Albert C., whose name introduces this sketch; and Otis, who remains at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Hause are prominent members of the English Lutheran church, and he was for many years a trustee in the same, while his political adherency is with the Democratic party. He never sought public office, but consented to serve as township trustee at one time. Albert C. Hause passed his boyhood days on the home farm and secured his rudimentary education in the local schools, after which he continued his studies in turn in the academy at Montpelier and the Normal schools at Ada, O., and Angola, Ind., while he later specially qualified himself for the office he now holds by taking a course in Nelson's Business College, in Springfield, O. After leaving school he engaged in the agricultural implement business in Montpelier, where he also dealt in wool and clover seed, continuing to be thus engaged for a period of five years, manifesting that discriminating business sagacity which has so significantly marked his career. In 1900 he assisted in the organization of the First National Bank of Montpelier, of which he became assistant cashier, serving in this capacity until July, 1904, when he was advanced to his present office of cashier, having shown much ability in handling the detail and executive affairs of this popular and substantial financial institution. He enjoys distinctive popularity in both business and social circles and is one of the representative young business men of his native county. In politics he is a loyal supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and in a fraternal way he is identified with the Masonic order. April 27, 1898, Mr. Hause was united in marriage to Miss Belle Pressler, daughter of Archibald and Angela (Hawkins) Pressler, of Montpelier, and they have one child.

FRANK J. HAUSER, a prominent farmer and successful stock-breeder of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in Baden, Germany, on July 2, 1823. His parents were Conrad and Catherine (Ritsenthaler) Hauser, both natives of Germany. Conrad Hauser was a farmer by occupation and with his wife a member of the Roman Catholic church. These parents lived and died in their native land, and to them there were born twelve children, of whom four sons are now living. Frank J. Hauser grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the excellent schools of his native country. In 1849 he emigrated to the United States and first located in Huron county, O., where he spent a year and a half. Then he went to California and spent five years mining for gold. On his return to Ohio he located in Sandusky county, where he spent seven years. In 1863 he removed to Williams county and located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres which he purchased in Florence township and on which he has since resided. After clearing this land he purchased eighty acres more, making a total of two hundred acres. He is engaged in general farming and in breeding short-horned and Polled Durham cattle and Shropshire sheep. In this double occupation he has met with marked success. He is a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Roman Catholic church. On April 7, 1858, he was wedded to Miss Amelia Brosemer, born in Seneca county, O., on October 7, 1841, the daughter of Landolin and Elizabeth (Maer) Brosemer, both born in Germany, who emigrated with his parents, Valentine and Mary Brosemer, to the United States in 1833, settling in Seneca county, O., where Valentine Brosemer and wife both died the following year. Here Landolin Brosemer carried on general farming until his death in 1885, his wife having died in

1881. He was a Democrat and a Catholic. To them there were born eleven children, only three of whom are now living. Frank J. Hauser and wife are the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living. The names of the children are as follows: Anthony Frank, Charles Henry, Joseph (deceased), Mary Catherine (deceased), Daniel, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Rosa, Lena, Simon, Joseph (deceased), and Josephine. Of these Nicholas and Simon work the home farm. Nicholas was educated in the common schools and married Ellen Kelble, of Williams county, by whom he has three children, viz., Amelia, Clateus and Oswald. Simon was educated in the common schools and Edon high school and lives with his brother Nicholas.

CALVIN D. HAVERSTOCK, one of the progressive farmers of Jefferson township, is a native of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Wayne county, O., on Christmas day of the year 1868, and being a son of Joseph and Sarah J. (Lash) Haverstock, both of whom were likewise born in Wayne county. The father was born December 13, 1836, and his death occurred on the 11th of June, 1880, while his devoted wife passed away October 19, 1873. They became the parents of four children, of whom two died in infancy. Calvin D. is the elder of the two living, and his brother, Willis T., is a resident of Pueblo, Colo., where he holds a clerical position in the postoffice. Joseph Haverstock was a son of Tobias B. and Margaret (Koller) Haverstock, the former of whom was born March 29, 1792, and died September 8, 1855, while the latter was born November 29, 1797, and died in the year 1873. They became the parents of eleven children, all of whom are now deceased. Calvin D. and Willis T. Haverstock were reared on the homestead farm and after leaving the public schools the former was for a year a student in the Fayette Normal University, in Fulton county, O. In 1880 the two brothers came to Williams county, and for a time made their home with their uncle, George Haverstock, one of the well known farmers of Superior township. For two years Calvin D. was engaged in the grocery business at Montpelier, this county, being associated with his brother in this enterprise. He also clerked in a drug store about eighteen months, and for an equal period was secretary of a building and loan association. In 1895 he came to Jefferson township and purchased what was known as the Wineland farm, comprising eighty acres, in Section 31, and here he has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, having one of the model farms of the county. In the autumn of 1904 he was elected trustee of Jefferson township, for a term of three years, and he is loyal to all duties and responsibilities of citizenship and an ardent supporter of the cause of the Republican party. On the 8th of June, 1892, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Haverstock to Miss Jessie Miller, who was born in Richland county, O., being a daughter of Benjamin F. and Mary (Murray) Miller. The former was born in Richland county, O., June 10, 1842, and his death occurred March 20, 1904. He was a valiant soldier of the Union during the Civil war, having been a member of Company H. Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having received his discharge on account of physical disability. His marriage to Miss Mary Murray occurred September 5, 1864, and she died December 25, 1871, while of their four children three died in infancy. April 6, 1875, he married Miss Iza Ransom, who survives him, as do their two children, Roy C. and Ina Ruth, the family home being in Jefferson township. Mr. and Mrs. Haverstock have no children.

WILLIAM WISNER HAVILAND has maintained his residence in Williams county since 1866 and is one of the successful farmers of Madison township, while he is also engaged in the manufacturing of lumber, having a well equipped saw mill on his farm. Mr. Haviland is a native of the old Empire State of the Union, having been born in Patterson, Putnam county, N. Y., on the 2d of May, 1833, and being a son of Isaac and Laura (Baldwin) Haviland, both of whom were born in that state, where they passed their entire lives, the father having been for many years engaged in the clothing business. His wife was a zealous member of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Haviland was a stalwart Democrat. They became the parents of five children, of whom only two are living, William W. and his brother, Comfort F., who resides in Pioneer, Williams county. Birdsel Haviland, father of Isaac, was born in Canada, whence he immigrated to America, locating at Patterson, Putnam county, N. Y., where he married Ann Towner. They passed the closing years of their lives in Ithaca, that State. One of his brothers was a colonel in the British army during the war of the Revolution. Laura (Baldwin) Haviland was a daughter of Daniel and Betsey (Field) Baldwin, the latter of whom was a relative of Cyrus W. Field, through whose efforts was laid the first Atlantic telegraphic cable. William W. Haviland was reared to maturity in the State of New York, having received his educational discipline in the common schools at Towner and in Amenia Seminary, at Amenia, Dutchess county, N. Y. In 1854 he came to Ohio and located in Burlington, Fulton county, and from that place he removed to Hillsdale county, Mich., where he turned his attention to farming and where he continued to reside until 1866, having been a prominent and popular resident of the county, and having served as township tax collector and treasurer. Prior to his coming to Williams county he spent one year with Yankee Robinson's big show, traveling all over the Northern and part of the Southern States. In 1866 Mr. Haviland came to Madison township, Williams county, where he secured a tract of one hundred and ten acres, the most of which he has individually reclaimed from the native forest, and here he has ever since resided, now having one of the valuable and finely improved farms of the county. In the early days he and his brother, Comfort F., put up a sawmill on his farm, and this he has since operated, manufacturing large amounts of lumber for local consumption, while he keeps his mill up to the modern standard in its equipment. He is one of the prosperous farmers and stock-growers of the county and has resided on his homestead consecutively since coming to the county. Mr. Haviland is an unfaltering advocate of the principles of the Democratic party. He has a host of friends in the county and is living in peace and prosperity, enjoying the rewards of his former years of toil and endeavor. Mary (Rogers) Haviland, first wife of the subject of this review, left two children at the time of her death: Clarence, who is engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber at Pioneer, this county, married Ellen Delcamp, who died in 1882, leaving one child, May; Charles, who is associated in the work of the home farm, married Miss Sarah Saltzgarber, and they became the parents of four children, Mary (deceased), Alta, Ada, and one that died young. Eliza (Delcamp) Haviland, second wife of William W. Haviland, was born in Medina county, O., May 4, 1860, and she died March 17, 1903. The only child of this union was Florence, born November 2, 1883, and died August 31, 1902, aged eighteen years, nine months and twenty-nine days.



ROBERT P. HAYS, one of the well fortified and representative members of the bar of Williams county, is engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Bryan, where he is honoring his native county by his able and successful efforts in his exacting vocation. He was born in Jefferson township, this county, on the 8th of March, 1858, and is a son of James and Catherine (McCrea) Hays, both of whom were born in Beaver, Pa., the former on the 2d of July, 1823, and the latter on the 25th of May, 1826. They were numbered among the pioneers of Jefferson township, Williams county, O., where they took up their residence in 1854 and from whence they removed, in 1861, to Northwest township, this county, where the family residence is still maintained, though the father died on March 18, 1898, after having been for many years one of the leading farmers of that section. The genealogy of Robert P. Hays traces back to stanch Scotch origin, ancestors having emigrated from Scotland to Ireland in the reign of James I, of England, while both the paternal and maternal ancestors or founders of the American lines came to the New World from the Emerald Isle about 1820. William Hunter, a great-great uncle of the subject of this sketch served in the British army during the war of the American Revolution, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill, and Thomas Hays, a great uncle, was in the British army during the Napoleonic wars and participated in the battle of the Pyramids. Robert P. Hays passed his youth on the home farm, and in the district schools secured his preliminary education, which was later supplemented by effective study in the graded schools of West Unity, Pioneer and Montpelier, this county. From 1879 to 1887 he gave his attention principally to teaching in the public schools, and during the decade from 1886 to 1896 he was a member of the board of school examiners of Williams county, and from 1899 to 1904 he was a member of the board of school examiners of the city of Bryan, O. In 1887 Mr. Hays began the study of law in the office and under the preceptorship of Thomas Emery, of Bryan, making rapid progress in his assimilation of the technicalities of the great science of jurisprudence and being admitted to the bar of his native State, before the supreme court, at Columbus, O., in December, 1889. In April of the following year he opened an office in Bryan, soon gaining recognition as a thorough and hardworking lawyer and laying the foundation for the large and representative clientage which he now retains. In June, 1892, he formed a professional partnership with Orwell J. Silliman, under the firm name of Hays & Silliman, and this alliance obtained until the death of Mr. Silliman, in 1898, since which time Mr. Hays has continued an individual practice. Mr. Hays is a stanch advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and has been an effective worker in its cause. He is affiliated with Bryan Lodge, No. 215, Free and Accepted Masons, and with Bryan Lodge, No. 221, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Hays remains a bachelor.

WILLIAM A. HELD, M. D., is an able exponent of the beneficent and thoroughly consistent Homœopathic school of medicine and is one of the leading physicians and surgeons of West Unity, where he controls a representative practice. He was born in Millcreek township, Williams county, O., on the 2d of July, 1868, and is a son of John H. and Eliza (Barr) Held, the former of whom was born in Lebanon county, Pa., in 1832, while the latter was born in Richland county, O., in 1835. Henry Held, grandfather of the doctor, was born in Germany, in 1790, and his wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Miller, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1791. They were married in the Fatherland, whence they came to America about 1820, locating in Pennsylvania, where they remained until 1835, when they came to Ohio and numbered themselves among the pioneers of Richland county, where Mr. Held became the owner of a good farm, having been a tailor by trade and having followed the same to a considerable extent in the pioneer community. He was summoned to the life eternal in 1867, his wife having passed away in 1864, both being Mennonites in their religious faith and practice. The maternal grandparents of Dr. Held were Adam and Elizabeth (Whisteler) Barr, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and they became pioneers of Richland county, O., where Mr. Barr passed the remainder of his life, his wife being a resident of Bridgewater township, Williams county, at the time of her demise. John H. Held was reared on the home farm, in Richland county, and after receiving a common school education he learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1850 he came to Millcreek township, Williams county, where he followed his trade for thirteen years. He then removed to Hillsdale county, Mich., where he purchased a farm, upon which he resided for the ensuing fourteen years, at the expiration of which he returned to Williams county, where he has since resided. He owns a small farm in Millcreek township, but now makes his home with his son William A., subject of this review. His loved and devoted wife was summoned to the eternal life on the 15th of July, 1903, and of their six children four are living, two daughters having died in infancy. Laura is the wife of Frank Bavin, of Toledo; the Doctor is the next younger; Charles L. resides in Toledo; and Mary is the wife of Rufus Esterline, a farmer of Millcreek township. Dr. Held secured his preliminary educational discipline in the public schools of Ohio and Michigan and then entered the Fayette Normal University, at Fayette, O., and in 1893 he was graduated in the scientific department of the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, Ind. In pursuing his higher education he depended largely upon his own resources, defraying much of the expense of his college work by teaching in the public schools at intervals, while he had recourse to the same means in meeting the expenses of his professional education. He took up the study of medicine in a private way and finally entered the Chicago Homoeopathic Medical College, in which fine institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1897, duly receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine. He forthwith established himself in practice in West Unity, and his success has been gratifying and unequivocal, attesting his technical skill and also his personal popularity in the community. Dr. and Mrs. Held have an attractive modern residence in their home town and are also owners of a good farm, comprising one hundred and thirty acres in Jefferson township, besides other property in West Unity. He is a member of the Williams County Medical Society and the Ohio Homoeopathic Medical Society, and his political adherency is with the Democratic party. On June 27, 1895, Dr. Held was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Fenimore, daughter of John H. Fenimore, of West Unity, of whom individual mention is made on another page. Mrs. Held was born in Jefferson township, Williams county, O., on June 16, 1874, and received her education in the Wset Unity schools, graduating from the high school in 1892. Dr. Held and wife have two children—Verile L., born February 1, 1897, and Geneva M., born September 12, 1899.

JOHN HELLER, a prominent farmer of Bridgewater township, Williams county, O., was born in Dauphin county, Pa., on December 7, 1829. He is the son of Jacob D. and Margaret (Daniels) Heller, both natives of Pennsylvania. Jacob D. Heller, the son of John Heller, who lived and died in the Keystone State, was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county. In 1838 he removed to Crawford county, O., where he cleared and improved a farm and there died at the advanced age of eighty-four years. His widow survived him four years. They first belonged to the Presbyterian church, but later in life joined the Lutheran church. Of the twelve children born to them the subject of this sketch was the fourth. John Heller grew to manhood on a farm and was educated by attending the pioneer schools a few months each winter in Crawford county, O. At the age of twenty-two he learned the plasterer's trade, which he followed for twenty years. In 1864 he purchased eighty acres of land in Bridgewater township, Williams county, and six years later settled on it. He has since added eighty acres to his original purchase. As this land was unimproved and heavily timbered it required a vast amount of labor to clear and prepare it for cultivation. By dint of hard work and untiring energy he has brought it to a high state of cultivation, making it one of the most desirable farms in Williams county. In politics he is identified with the Republican party. In 1869 he married Miss Eliza Pry, a daughter of Frederick and Ricca (Bowman) Pry, who were both natives of Germany and early settlers in Crawford county, O. To this union there have been born the following children: Clara, born January 8, 1871; Frederick, born January 28, 1873; William, born July 17, 1875; Albert, born April 11, 1879, and Ollie, born October 9, 1882, each of whom grew to maturity and received a good education. Mr. and Mrs. Heller are spending their declining years on the old homestead and rank high in the estimation of their life-long friends and neighbors.

LEVI HENDRICKS, who is now living retired in Kunkle, was for many years actively identified with agricultural pursuits in this county and also had other business interests, while his efforts were so directed as to enable him to attain a competency. He has passed practically his entire life in Williams county and is a representative of one of its sterling pioneer families. He was born in Seneca county, O., February 18, 1836, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Ferrier) Hendricks, both of whom were born in Harrison county, this state, where the respective families were founded in the early pioneer epoch. Jacob Hendricks came to Williams county as a pioneer of 1838, locating in Jefferson township, where he reclaimed and otherwise improved a farm, and here his death occurred in 1869. He was a Democrat in politics, and he and his wife were consistent members of the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of four sons and five daughters, of whom three of the sons and two of the daughters are living. The mother died in 1859. She was a daughter of Rev. Andrew Ferrier, who was an early settler in Williams county, where he followed milling as a business, being also a clergyman of the Presbyterian church, laboring zealously for the uplifting of his fellow men. He passed the closing years of his life in the state of Indiana. Levi Hendricks was but two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Williams county, and his earliest recollections touch upon the surroundings and operation of the pioneer farm, in which work he began to assist while still a boy. In the meanwhile he attended the schools of the locality as opportunity presented, which was principally during the winter months when his services were not in requisition on the home farm. He continued to follow farming after attaining maturity and has owned several good farms in the county, where he also operated a threshing machine for a number of years. In 1866 he engaged in the operation of a sawmill, making a success of the enterprise, and he is now living essentially retired in Kunkle, where he has made his home since 1885, being held in high regard in the community. In 1862 he became a member of a company of home guards, and in 1864 went to the front as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Forty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving four months and then receiving an honorable discharge. In 1865 he re-enlisted, for a term of one year, in Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued in service until victory crowned the Union arms and the war ended. In politics Mr. Hendricks is aligned as a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. In 1857 Mr. Hendricks was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Greek, daughter of Frederick Greek, an honored pioneer of Williams county, and of the eight children of this union seven are living. The eight children, in order of birth, were: Amelia, Burton A., Jennie, Almeda (deceased), Alvertis, Emma, Wesley and Charles. Mrs. Hendricks died in 1884, having been a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and in 1894 Mr. Hendricks consummated a second marriage, being then united to Mrs. Mary E. Nisley, of this county. She was married to Jacob G. Nisley in 1862 and he died on August 6, 1892. To them were born three children: Charles F., Alonzo J. and William E., of whom Charles F. is dead. Mrs. Hendricks' maiden name was Mary E. Cooper, and her parents were Solomon and Louisa (Truitt) Cooper, residents of Seneca county, O. Burton A. Hendricks, a son of Levi and Fannie (Greek) Hendricks, likewise resides in Kunkle, and is one of the prominent farmers and business men of this section, his homestead, which adjoins the town, comprising seventy-four acres, while he also owns forty acres in Millcreek township He has been prominently identified with saw-milling and threshing enterprises, and he passed six years in the city of Chicago, where he was engaged in setting and operating hoisting machinery, in which connection he assisted in the erection of the Auditorium and the Masonic Temple, two of the principal buildings of the great Western metropolis. He is a Democrat in politics and is a member of Kunkle Lodge No. 821, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1896 he was married to Miss Sadie Wiley, who was born in Licking county, O., being a daughter of Lafayette and Alice (Hardesty) Wiley. Mr. and Mrs. Burton A. Hendricks have three children: Homer Bryan, Arthur Dewey, and Boyd Wiley.

JAMES DELOS HILL, a well-known and able member of the bar of Williams county, is now cashier of the Montpelier National Bank. Mr. Hill was born in Osceola, Tioga county, Pa., on the 23d of September, 1860, and is a son of Edwin R. and Henrietta L. (Tharp) Hill, the former of whom was born in Lockport, N. Y., September 21, 1820, while the latter was born in Osceola, Pa., January 4, 1827. James D. Hill passed his youthful days in Noble county, Ind., being reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, and after duly availing himself of the advantages of the public schools he entered the Michigan Agricultural College, near Lansing, Mich., where he remained as a student for four years. In June, 1888, Mr. Hill was admitted to the bar of Ohio. Shortly afterward he opened an office and began the practice of his profession in Montpelier, where he has since maintained his home and where he built up an excellent professional business. In politics he is numbered among the stalwart Republicans of Williams county, where he has been an active worker for the advancement of the party cause. He was a delegate to the Republican national convention in 1904. He served one term as mayor of Montpelier, 1891-3, and was the first secretary of the Montpelier municipal water and lighting plant and system, having superintended the construction of the plant. In 1898 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Williams county, serving one term and making an excellent record as public prosecutor. In 1899 he was elected cashier of what is now the Montpelier National Bank, which executive office he yet holds. July 6, 1892, Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Emma Diebley, daughter of Joseph and Catharine Diebley, and she died on the 5th of July, 1894, leaving no children. May 31, 1898, Mr. Hill married Miss Grace L. Stainthorpe, daughter of George and Margaret Stainthorpe, of Montpelier, and they have two children: Margaret L., born September 16, 1899, and Henrietta L., born October 30, 1901.

SAMUEL HIMES, one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of Pulaski township, is one of those sterling citizens whose memories link the pioneer epoch in this section with the latter days of opulent prosperity and material advancement, his parents having settled in Williams county more than sixty years ago, and he has personally stood for the highest standard of citizenship and is one of the valiant soldiers contributed by this county to the Union forces during the era of the Rebellion. Mr. Himes was born on the old homestead farm, in Pulaski township, this county, on the 9th of July, 1847, and is a son of John and Catherine (Ritter) Himes, both of whom were born and reared in Tuscarawas county, O., where their marriage was solemnized and where they continued to reside until 1841, when they came to Williams county. Here the father secured forty acres of heavily timbered land, in Section 26, Pulaski township, and on the same he erected a log house of the type common to the locality and period, and this was the family home until 1866, when he erected a substantial frame house, which is still standing. He developed a good farm and was one of the honored pioneers and worthy citizens of the county. He was born on December 16, 1818, and attained a venerable age, his death occurring February 1, 1903, while his devoted wife was summoned into eternal rest on the 20th of

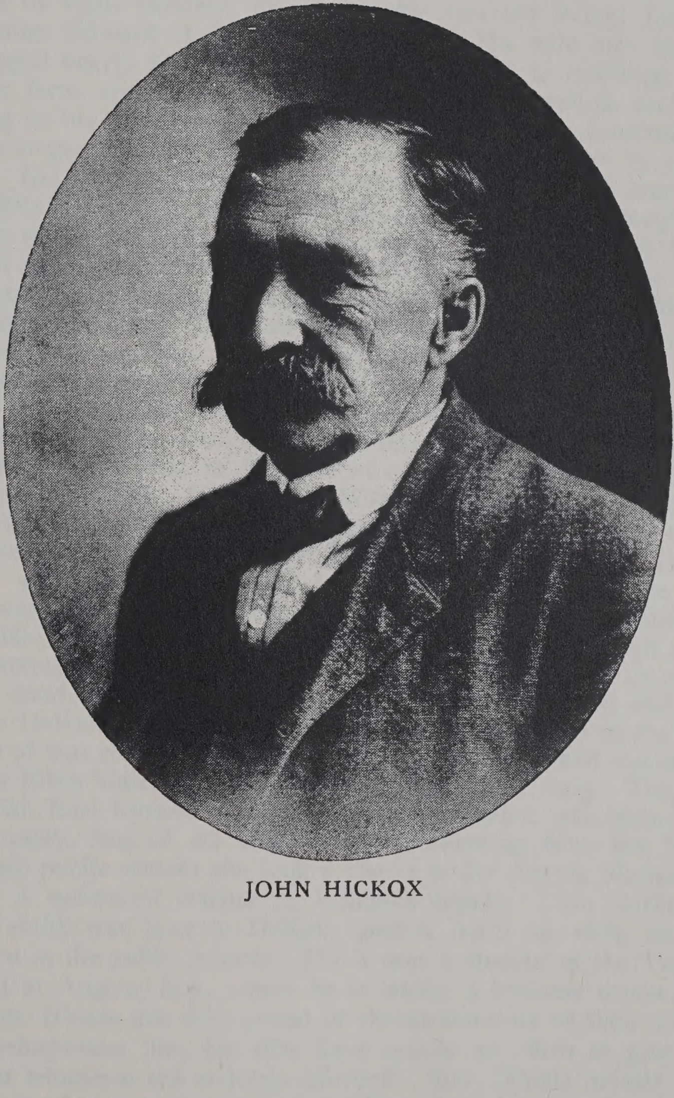
March, 1901. Both were members of the United Brethren church, and in politics he was a supporter of the Republican party from the time of its organization until that of his death, while his rectitude of character and inflexible honesty of purpose retained to him the high regard of all who knew him. The theory of race suicide, so strenuously deprecated by President Roosevelt, could find no countenance in the family of this worthy couple, concerning whose twelve children the following data is offered: Melissa is the widow of Jacob Leichty and resides in Albany, Ore.; Emeline is the wife of James Silliman, of Pulaski township; Martha Jane is the wife of Jacob Schatser, of Bryan, this county; Samuel, subject of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Mary is the wife of Jason N. Brandeberry, of Albany, Ore.; Sarah is the wife of Jerome Matthews, of Warsaw, Ind.; Elizabeth is the wife of Curtis Shook, of Pulaski township; William is a successful farmer of Pulaski township, as is also Warren; Matilda resides in Toledo, O.; Margaret is the wife of Perry Garlock, of Bryan, and Maria is the wife of Harry Pease, of Indianapolis, Ind. Samuel Himes was reared on the homestead farm and early became inured to the sturdy work of reclaiming land and aiding in the cultivation of the same, while his educational advantages were those afforded in a somewhat irregular attendance in the local schools, which were of primitive order. In January, 1864, when sixteen years of age, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a private in Company D, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Jacob C. Donaldson being captain of the company. The regiment became a part of the Western army, and Mr. Himes participated in the battles of Snake Creek Gap, Ga., Kenesaw Mountain and the battle of Atlanta, besides many skirmishes, and was with Sherman on his memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. He was severely wounded in an engagement near Jonesboro. He took part in the Grand Review at the National capital, and received his honorable discharge in July, 1865. After the close of his military career Mr. Himes returned to Williams county and soon afterward bought his present homestead of eighty acres, in Section 23, Pulaski township, the land being covered with the native timber, which he proceeded to remove, placing the farm under cultivation and making it one of the valuable farms of the county. He first erected a small log house, and in this kept "bachelor's hall" for several years, but in 1904 he erected his present commodious and substantial modern residence; and other permanent improvements are of excellent order. All of the land is eligible for cultivation except fifteen acres, which are still covered with the fine timber of the pioneer days. Mr. Himes has won success through persistent and arduous effort and is one of the substantial farmers and honored citizens of his native county. He gives his support to the Republican party and takes a loyal interest in local affairs, though never seeking official position of any sort. On the 26th of December, 1894, Mr. Himes was united in marriage to

Miss Cassie Noonan, who was born in Crestline, O., on February 10, 1857, being a daughter of Cornelius and Mary (Zigler) Noonan, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Himes have five children, as follows: Nellie Dale, Sylvia Ellen, Merlin Ellwood, Densil D. and Willard. Mrs. Himes is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

GEORGE HINEMAN, a thrifty farmer of Center township, Williams county, O., is a native of Stark county of that State, where he was born September 12, 1841. He is the son of Frederick and Magdalena (Householder) Hineman, both natives of Strasburg, Germany. After their marriage they emigrated to the United States, and coming directly to Ohio, settled first in Stark county, and about the year 1848 removed to Williams county, where his wife died in 1877 and he two years later. To their marriage nine children were born, of whom seven are still living. He was a weaver by trade, a farmer and distiller by occupation, a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. The paternal grandparents of George Hineman were Frederick and Magdalena Hineman, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to America and settled in Stark county, where both spent the remainder of their lives. His maternal grandfather, after the death of his wife in Stark county, came to Williams county, where he died at a mature age. George Hineman was reared on his father's farm and received a common school education in the schools of Stark and Williams counties. He chose farming as his life work and now owns a farm of two hundred acres. At one time he was the owner of eighty acres near Melbern on the old Hanam place. While engaged in general farming, he has his place well supplied with good stock of all kinds. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest and has held the offices of school director and road supervisor. He is a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. On December 21, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Niederaur, born in Baiern Kaiserlautern, Germany, July 15, 1847, the daughter of the brother of John Niederaur, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To their marriage one son has been born, named Philemon D. Philemon D. Hineman was born in Williams county February 18, 1875, and received his education in the Bryan, O., public schools. Having chosen farming as his occupation, he located on a farm of one hundred acres, a part of the old homestead, where he follows general farming. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party and with his wife is a member of the German Lutheran church. In June, 1897, he was wedded to Miss Emma Marks, who was born in Cincinnati, O., March 21, 1875, and by her has two children. They are: Rutherford, born December 30, 1899, and George Loraine, born in September, 1902. These parents have also an adopted daughter, Flossie Hart.

JOHN HICKOX, justice of the peace of Pulaski township and a well-known citizen of Bryan, Williams county, O., is a native of the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, where he was born August 29, 1843. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Hickox, both natives of Switzerland. In May, 1853, John Hickox, with his wife and five children, emigrated to the United States, landing at New York city. From there they went to Buffalo, N. Y., and three months later crossed Lake Erie to Portage county, O., where they located on a farm and resided for many years. In 1890 John Hickox removed to Trumbull county, O., where he died ten years later, aged eighty-three years. His widow survived him one year, dying at the age of eighty-five years. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are still living. They are: John, the subject of this sketch; Alice, the wife of Frank Higgins of Minnesota; Emil of Trumbull county; Lena, the wife of Edward White of Geauga county, O.; Rose, now Mrs. White of Geauga county; Albert, a resident of the State of Missouri; Frank of Geauga county, and William of South Dakota. John Hickox lived on his father's farm until he was twelve years old, when he made his home until twenty-three years of age with Judge Foster of Portage county. His education was such as the common schools of that day afforded. In December, 1870, he came to Bryan and married Miss Isabell Ames, whose parents were then deceased, but old residents of Williams county. Returning to Portage county with his wife, he followed general farming for the next three years. In 1873 he removed to Williams county and located on a farm one mile southeast of Bryan. Here he followed farming until 1901, when he became a citizen of Bryan. In politics he has always been an earnest Democrat, serving as trustee of Pulaski township for two terms. In 1902 he was elected justice of the peace, which position he still holds. He has been a Mason for more than forty years, having been made such by the Garretsville, O., lodge. Mrs. Hickox was born in Pulaski township in 1848, and died in 1901. She was the daughter of William Ames, a pioneer farmer of the county. No children were born to this marriage.

JOHN HINKLE, a well-to-do and highly respected farmer of Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in Hicksville, Defiance county, of that State, January 5, 1849. He is the son of Streper and Olivia (Barker) Hinkle, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York State. His grandparents were Joseph and Elizabeth (Streper) Hinkle, both natives of Pennsylvania. Joseph Hinkle, after the death of his wife in her native state, came to Williams county, O., in 1862, and died there the following year. The maternal grandparents of John Hinkle were William and Electa (West) Barker, who settled in DeKalb county, Ind., in 1836, where both died, Electa in 1838 and William in 1839. His great-grandfather, Hinkle, had twelve sons and one daughter. Streper Hinkle was born in Northampton county, Pa., February 8, 1814. He grew to manhood at home, receiving a fair public school education, and in 1836 removed to Hicksville, O. In 1857 he removed to Williams county, settling on a farm



JOHN HICKOX

in St. Joseph township, where he lived nine years, then sold and bought another farm in the same township, where he died November 19, 1903. aged eighty-nine years, nine months and eleven days. While a blacksmith by trade he made farming his chief occupation. He was the owner of a fine hundred-acre farm, a Democrat in politics, and for some years a trustee of St. Joseph township. He and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom only two are living, John and his brother Edward of DeKalb county, Ind. His wife died in April, 1874, aged nearly fifty years. John Hinkle grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a fair common school education, and chose farming as his life's work. The old homestead of one hundred acres now belongs to him. For twenty-two years he resided in DeKalb county, Ind., where he served as justice of the peace for four years. In politics he is a Democrat and with his wife and two daughters a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On July 4, 1876, he was wedded to Miss Emma E. Hunt, a native of Barry county, Mich., born near Kalamazoo, July 21, 1854, the daughter of Theodore and Hannah (Boughton) Hunt, the former born in Seneca county, May 20, 1826, and the latter near Albany, N. Y., April 19, 1829. Theodore Hunt is a son of Obediah Hunt, who settled at Fostoria, O., in an early day and then moved to Iowa, where he died. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Hinkle was Ebenezer D. Boughton, a native of New York, who came to Fostoria in an early day and settled on a farm near that city. He married Miss Mary Ann Hoyt, a native of Connecticut, who came with her parents to New York and then to Fostoria. Here Ebenezer D. Boughton and wife both died. To John Hinkle and wife four children have been born. Olivia, the eldest child, was born in Williams county June 13, 1877, and was educated in the public schools of DeKalb county, Ind., and Butler high school. She married Charles F. Jackman, of Hamilton, Ind., and is the mother of one child, Electa Ellen. Theodore Streper, the second child, was born in DeKalb county, February 7, 1879, and educated in the public schools of that county. He is a farmer by occupation and was wedded to Miss Edna Maier of Williams county, in March, 1903. They have one child, Earl Emanuel. Lora Harriett, the third, was born in DeKalb county, August 20, 1882. After graduating from the Indiana and Ohio public schools she took a course at the Angola Normal, and is now a successful teacher in Williams county. Orin Barker, the fourth child, was born in DeKalb county, April 19, 1885, and was educated in the public schools. He is now a student of the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., where he is taking a business course. Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle are very proud of the attainments of their children in an educational line, for they have spared no effort to give them the best education the country afforded. Mrs. Hinkle herself was a teacher for five years before her marriage, having graduated from the Bryan, O., Normal.

DAVID HISSONG, a well-to-do farmer and highly respected citizen of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born in Bedford county, Pa., on January 6, 1831. His parents, John F. and Sarah (Prinkley) Hissong, were both natives of Bedford county. On April 1, 1831, they removed to Knox county, O., where they resided until 1854, when they came to Williams county. A year later they removed to Elkhart county, Ind., and, after spending a year there, to Richland county, O., where Mrs. Hissong died in May, 1857. Ten years after his wife's death, John Hissong died in Knox county, O. In politics he was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Dunkard church. Of the eleven children born to them seven are yet living. David Hissong, until eighteen years old, grew up on his father's farm, receiving such an education as the common schools of that day afforded. Having learned the blacksmith trade, he followed that occupation, working first in Liberty, Knox county, and then in Independence, now Butler, Richland county, O., where he remained until 1871. Next he went to Michigan, spending a year in that State, then to Pleasant Lake, Ind., and from there to Alverado, Steuben county, Ind. After a year's sojourn at this point he came to Edon, where he followed his avocation for some years. Then he built the hotel at Edon and conducted that business for seven years. During this time he was engaged also in the livery and saw-mill business. In 1883 he purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he has since resided. After clearing the land he erected a dwelling on it which was destroyed by fire in 1899. Later he built his present residence and in 1902 a fine barn. He devotes his time to general farming and stock raising. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party, having served as Mayor of Edon for a short time and as a member of the district school board. In religious matters he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. On December 29, 1853, he was united in marriage to Miss Marrilla Patience Andrews of Richland county, O., and their union was blessed by eight children. Their names follow: Sarah Marrilla, Thomas B., deceased; Cynthia Ann, Ida, deceased: Nancy Elzina, Millie Alberta, Francis, Iona and James Chester. His wife having died on February 3, 1896, David Hissong was united in the bonds of wedlock to Mrs. Sara Jane Brown, nee Breeding, a native of Champaign county, O.

MARTIN T. HODSON, a successful business man and capitalist of Pioneer, O., is a native of Bridgewater township, Williams county, having been born on December 10, 1855. He is the son of Thomas Hodson, mention of whom is made in the review that follows this sketch. Martin T. Hodson was reared on a farm until fourteen years of age and received his education in the common schools of the county and the Pioneer high school. When fourteen years old he began clerking in a drug store, and at the age of eighteen embarked in business in Pioneer for himself. Today he is one of the oldest and most prosperous business men of Pioneer. On November 8, 1894, with J. A. Grant and George Young as partners, he organized the Pioneer

Banking Company, an enterprise that has met with unusual success. For ten years prior to the organization of the Pioneer Banking Company, he carried on the banking business under the name of the Pioneer bank. Mr. Hodson owns a farm in Bridgewater township, one in Madison township, and valuable property in Pioneer. He built an elevator in Pioneer, and in 1904 organized the Pioneer Elevator Company, of which enterprise he is a stockholder, a director and secretary. As a money-lender he holds quite a prominent place. In politics he acts independently of the political parties, preferring to use his own judgment in the selection of candidates for office. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Eggleston, the daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Weaver) Eggleston, of Williams county. Daniel Eggleston settled in Williams county in an early day and he and wife spent their lives there. He was a farmer, a Republican, and with his wife a member of the United Brethren church. The following children were born to Mr. Hodson and wife: Fred M., educated in the Pioneer high school and at the Ada, O., Pharmacy school, from which institution he graduated at the age of twenty years, and is now in business with his father; Minnie B., who died, aged two years and eleven months, and Richard, who died at the age of eight months.

THOMAS HODSON, who was one of the sterling pioneers of Williams county, is most consistently accorded a memorial tribute in this publication. He removed from Richland county to Williams county more than half a century ago, and here lived a life which was useful and exemplary in every relation. He was born at Navenby, Lincolnshire, England, on the 28th of April, 1814, being a son of George and Sophia (Sibcey) Hodson, both of whom were likewise natives of Lincolnshire, while the former was a son of Martin Hodson, who was born in Bedfordshire and who was steward of the Duke of Bedfordshire. At the age of fourteen years George Hodson took up his residence in Navenby, where he served an apprenticeship at the trade of wheelwright. In 1815 he served as sergeant in the English army, in the war with France. He died in 1823, and four years later his widow, who was born in 1791, became the wife of William Dobbs, with whom she came to America in the same year, being accompanied by six of the seven children of her first marriage. They came to Ohio and settled on a pioneer farm in Richland county, where both Mr. and Mrs. Dobbs passed the remainder of their lives. Thomas Hodson attended school in his native land until he was about twelve years of age, when he came with his mother and stepfather to the United States, being reared to manhood in Richland county, O., where he assisted in reclaiming wild land and in the other details of farm work in the pioneer epoch. On the 13th of August, 1840, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Stephenson, a daughter of Levi Stephenson, who came to Ohio from Pennsylvania about the year 1814. Seven years after his marriage Mr. Hodson came to Williams county and purchased nearly seven hundred acres of land, and in 1854 he came with his family and took up a permanent residence in this county, passing one year in Bridgewater Center and then taking up his residence on his landed estate, a large portion of which he reclaimed from the virgin forest. In 1870 he removed from the farm to the village of Pioneer, where he passed the remainder of his life. He was for many years one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the community in which he lived, and he was honored with election to various township offices, ever commanding the unqualified respect of all who knew him. During the many years through which he practiced law in the justice courts he achieved remarkable success, having gained a comprehensive knowledge of the law through careful reading and through his experience, though he was never formally admitted to the bar. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grange, having been the first president of the first Grange organized in Pioneer. Being essentially a student and thinker, he spent many of his leisure hours in his library, which was exceptionally comprehensive and select. This worthy pioneer passed to his reward in 1894, and his wife died in 1904. Concerning their children the following is a brief record: George is a resident of Superior township; Mary A. is the wife of Andrew J. Bostater, of Montpelier; Jobe is the subject of further mention in this connection; Sophia, who is the widow of Henry Umbenhauer, resides in the city of Toledo; Minerva is the wife of George Letcher, of California; Martin T. resides in the village of Pioneer, and John H. is deceased. Jobe Hodson, the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Stephenson) Hodson, was born near Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, on the 17th of July, 1845, and came with his parents to Williams county in 1854. Here his youth was passed after the manner of the average young man of the locality and period. He gave himself to arduous toil on the home farm during the summer seasons and to earnest study in the local schools during the winter terms, supplementing his common school discipline with a course of study in the normal department of Mykrantz Hall, in Bryan, this county. He taught in the district schools for twelve years during the winter terms, but continued to reside on the home farm, in Bridgewater township, and after the homestead came into his possession, in 1873, he made noteworthy improvements on the place, which he developed into one of the best in the township. He also built and operated a creamery on the farm, giving it his personal supervision for a number of years and until failing health admonished him to abate his strenuous labors and close application. He accordingly turned the farm and creamery over to his son John, who has since had the management of the place, and has given it the name of Spring Brook Stock farm, devoting it especially to the breeding of pure-bred cattle, swine and sheep. Mr. Hodson and wife then removed to the attractive village of Montpelier, in February, 1898. Here, aside from attending to his private business and fulfilling his executive duties as vice-president of the Montpelier National bank, he is living a retired life. In politics Mr. Hodson is an independent Democrat, and where no important issues are involved he votes for men rather than being restricted to close partisan lines. He is of a retiring disposition, and has always put others forward rather than himself. Though frequently urged to become a candidate for public office, only in one instance has he permitted his name to be used in such connection. In religion he is essentially a humanitarian, having a reverence for spiritual verities, but being a rationalist and holding the golden rule as representing the best guide for all, regardless of sect or denomination, and he strives to be helpful to his fellowmen in all the relations of life. On the 11th of December, 1873, Mr. Hodson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Hill, of Bridgewater township. She was born in the State of Pennsylvania, on the 28th of February, 1855, being a daughter of Edwin R. and Henrietta (Tharp) Hill, both of whom were born in the state of New York. Following are brief data concerning the childrn of Mr. and Mrs. Hodson: Thomas E., who married Miss Ada Grannis, daughter of Frank Grannis, is a resident of Montpelier; John, who married Miss Mabel Jerdin, resides on the home farm, as already noted; Martha is the wife of Andrew J. Bucklew, of Bryan; and Ray remains at the parental home and is attending the public schools of Montpelier.

JOHN W. HOKE, undertaker and city clerk of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, of that state, December 29, 1848. He is the son of Jacob and Polly (Murray) Hoke, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born at Chambersburg, Franklin county, in 1823, and the latter in the same county in 1829. His grandfather was John Hoke, also a native of Franklin county, and of English descent. His maternal grandfather was Jacob Murray of Scotch-Irish extraction. Jacob Hoke removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1846, settling in Seneca county. A year later he returned to Franklin county and was married. When he returned to Seneca county his parents and those of his wife came with him, and there they spent the rest of their days. Jacob Hoke was a farmer by occupation and, with his wife, a member of the German Reformed church. He died May 3, 1888, and his widow is still living. John W. Hoke was reared in Tiffin, where he attended the public schools. After graduating from the Tiffin schools he spent two and one-half years at Heidleburg college. Then for five winters he was engaged in teaching. On September 24, 1872, he was wedded to Miss Ettie Smith. After his marriage he removed to Attica, Seneca county, and engaged in the undertaking business with his father-in-law, William Smith, who had been an embalmer at that place for many years. In December, 1885, Mr. Hoke purchased the interest of his partner and conducted the business by himself until 1894, when he sold out and removed to Bryan, taking up the same line. From the very start he has been unusually successful, his establishment being one of two in Bryan. In 1900 he was elected city clerk and two years later re-elected, but by legislative enactment his second term was cut short one year. In his third race for the office he was equally successful, so that he has served, altogether, five years. Aside from his duties as city clerk he has acted as bookkeeper of the electric light and water works plants of the city. In religious matters he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. He is an active Blue Lodge and Chapter member of the Masonic Fraternity, a charter member of the Attica lodge, Knights of Pythias, organizer of the Chicago Junction, O., lodge of the same society, and of the Maccabees, in which organization he has served as record keeper for the past ten years. He represented the Knights of Pythias three terms at the Grand Lodge of that order. Two sons have been born to John W. Hoke and wife. They are: Frank, who is now train dispatcher for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and William, who is general manager of the Hicksville Telephone company at Hicksville, O.

JOHN HOLLINGER, one of the progressive farmers of St. Joseph township, Williams county, O., was born in Sandusky county, O., February 12, 1852. He is the son of Charles Hollinger, who was the son of Bartlett and Caroline Hollinger; both natives of Bavaria, Germany, who emigrated to America in 1848. Their son Charles had married Philipina Hopp, in 1841, and all came to America together, locating in Sandusky county, O. Bartlett Hollinger and wife continued to reside in Sandusky county until their respective deaths, his death occurring about 1852 and hers in 1866. They had four sons and two daughters, viz: Henry, deceased; Charles, deceased; Fred, deceased; Jacob, who resides on the old original homestead in Sandusky county, O.; Elizabeth married John Snyder, a Mexican war veteran, both now dead; Harriet married Adam Miller, and both are dead. The latter were the parents of one daughter and two sons, viz: Mary, who married Wm. Wick, and resides in Toledo, O.; John, deceased, and Adam, who resides on the old Miller homestead. Charles Hollinger and wife, Philipina, had three sons and seven daughters, all of whom are living. They are: Louisa, Charles, Harriet, Sarah, Ellen N., Caroline, John, Catharine, Jacob and Mary. Their father, Charles Hollinger, was born in Hamburg, Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, on September 14, 1814, and died in Williams county, O., July 21, 1889. His wife, Philipina, was born in the same part of Germany, June 14, 1814, and died at the home of her son, John Hollinger, on January 23, 1905. They were both devoted members of the Evangelical Association, both uniting with the church at the same protracted meeting at Bettsville, Seneca county, O., in 1849. At the time of her death Mrs. Hollinger had thirty-four grand children and twenty great-grandchildren. Reared on a farm, receiving a fair education in the public schools of Sandusky and Williams counties, and having learned the carpenter trade, John Hollinger was well prepared to begin life's work. In 1867 he removed to Williams county, where he learned his trade and there plied it for a number of years successfully. With his savings he bought forty acres of land, in 1881, to which he added another tract of forty acres in 1896, the latter purchase lying just south of the former. He has brought this land to a high state of cultivation, having equipped it with all the necessary buildings. All this has been done without receiving any assistance from his father. In politics he is a Republican, but in no sense an aspirant for public office. On religious matters he is quite liberal in his views. On September 2, 1875, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Julia Suffel, born in Defiance county, O., March 29, 1857, the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Goeltzenleuchter) Suffel, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. Peter Suffel emigrated to America with his parents, Philip and Caroline (Radenbaugh) Suffel, in 1837, and coming to Ohio located in Defiance county and afterwards removed to Williams county, near Edgerton, where his father died in 1857 and his mother in 1885. He was a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. They were married on February 18, 1855, and were the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Those living are: Julia, wife of John Hollinger; Solomon H.; William; Sarah, wife of George Shaefer of Emporia, Kansas; Emanuel; Hannah, the wife of William Nihart of Center township, Williams county; Harriet, now Mrs. George Ward of Blakeslee, O.; Benjamin of Center township, and Peter T. Caroline, the eldest, and John, the tenth child, are dead. Peter Suffel died July 31, 1898, aged sixty-six and one half years, and his widow is still living, being sixty-seven years old. The paternal great-grandparents of Mrs. John Hollinger were Christian and Catherine (Deihl) Goeltzenleuchter, both of whom died in Germany. Her maternal grandparents were Henry and Catherine (Gilbert) Shaefer, who emigrated to the United States in 1837, the former dying in Stark county, O., in 1844, and the latter in DeKalb county, Ind., about 1856. To John Hollinger and wife one son has been born, Peter S., born February 7, 1879, educated in the public schools and a farmer, working on his father's place. John Hollinger is a member of Edgerton Lodge, No. 608, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his son, Peter, is also a member of the same lodge. All three are members of St. Joseph Rebecca Lodge, No. 151, of Edgerton, O.

JAMES CHESTER HOLLOWAY, postmaster of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born in Bridgewater township of that county on March 31, 1851. He is the son of Chester S. and Caroline (Wood) Holloway, both natives of Genesee county, N. Y., the former born in 1818 and the latter in 1828. His paternal and maternal grandfathers, Chester S. Holloway, Sr., and Thomas W. Wood, both of English descent, were natives of the State of New York. Both families came to Lucas county, O., about the year 1808, and located west of the present site of Maumee. At that early day Toledo consisted of one double log house and Maumee was the chief trading point for that section of the country. The parents of James C. Holloway were married in Lucas county and in 1850 removed to Williams county, where the father bought land in Bridgewater township of the government for $1.25 per acre. The land was covered with dense forests, not a stick of timber having been cut within three miles of his purchase. Here the family resided, following general farming until 1880, when they removed to Montpelier. Chester S. Holloway was a Republican in politics, and served as assessor for two terms, census taker for two terms and constable for a number of years. His wife was an ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, her father having been a prominent pioneer preacher of that denomination. She died in 1868 and was survived by her husband until 1890. The children born to these parents are as follows: William, a farmer of Bridgewater township; James Chester; Sidney, retail grocer of White Cloud, Mich.; Charles H., a farmer living six miles north of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Everett, a plasterer and brickmason of Montpelier. James Chester Holloway was reared on the farm in Bridgewater township and educated in the public schools. After leaving school he served an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade and then successfully followed that occupation for many years. In 1884 he came to Montpelier and engaged in building and contracting. Many of the best business buildings and private residences in the town were erected by him, among which may be mentioned the following: The Brannan hotel, the United Brethren church, the G. A. R. block, the C. C. Lattanner shoe store, the Miller & Lamberson hardware store, the Bordner property, the Collins drug store, the C. A. Shorter grocery store, and the residences of A. P. Rothenberger, Jobe Hodson, William Pew, J. M. Cummins, and his own. He was foreman of Boon & Company's sash and door factory for five years, treasurer of the Montpelier Union Agricultural Company for five years, and secretary of the same corporation for three years. In politics Mr. Holloway has always taken a deep interest, having served three years as township assessor, seven years as councilman of Montpelier and five years as a member of the school board. In 1898 he made the race for the nomination for county treasurer, and was defeated by the fraction of a vote, there being seven candidates. In November of the same year he was appointed postmaster by President McKinley and confirmed by the Senate in January, 1899. In 1903 he was reappointed by President Roosevelt. He is a charter member of the Montpelier Lodge, Knights of Pythias, a Mason and an Odd Fellow. On January 1, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Adell Culbertson, a native of Wisconsin and the daughter of William Culbertson, who lost his life while serving as a soldier of the Union army in the late Civil war. To James C. Holloway and wife there have been born the following children: Arthur Ward, who is in charge of a news-stand in the postoffice lobby; Eva Maude, the wife of Clarence Mann of Montpelier; and Carrie, who assists her father in the postoffice. Mrs. Holloway and her two daughters are active members of the Presbyterian church. Arthur Ward Holloway married Miss Alice Batterson of Pioneer, O., and to this union has been born one son, Arthur Vane.

CLAUDE EARL HOOVER, M. D., of Edgerton, O., was born at West Unity, Williams county, O., January 1, 1875. He is the son of Andrew Joshua Hoover and Alice Ann (Ronk) Hoover. He attended the public schools at West Unity and graduated from the high school there in 1892. After his graduation he attended a course of lectures at the University of Michigan, preparatory to the study of medicine and surgery. In the summer of 1894 he matriculated in the Chicago Homœopathic College and graduated in 1897 with the degree of M. D. After taking special hospital work he located at Edgerton, O., where he is now doing a large and lucrative general practice and making a specialty of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. The Doctor has made a careful study of the genealogical history of his family, in all its branches, and desires to preserve the same by its insertion in this volume. Claude Earl Hoover is the son of Andrew J. Hoover, born October 1, 1846. and Alice Ann (Ronk) Hoover, born January 13, 1853. Andrew J. lives at West Unity and has been engaged in the hardware business for thirty years. Claude E. Hoover is the grandson of George W. Hoover, born July 29, 1823, died February 16, 1892, and Rebecca Martha (Bear) Hoover, born July 27, 1820, died December 1, 1878; great-grandson of Philip Hoover, who lived at Lebanon, Pa., and emigrated from Germany. Rebecca Martha Bear was the youngest daughter of David Bear, born December 9, 1785, and Esther (Nailer) Bear, daughter of George Nailer, Esther being born on January 31, 1788. David lived in Cumberland county, Pa., until the death of his wife, August 13, 1867, when he moved to Pulaski, O., to live with his son, Daniel, and he died there, May 22, 1873. David and Esther Bear were married, October 26, 1806. David was the son of Jacob Bear, born July 14, 1749, died July 14, 1793, who married, June 10, 1775, Catherine Snyder, born 1752, died June 8, 1817. Jacob Bear owned large tracts of land in the colony, afterwards State of Pennsylvania. On the maternal side, Dr. Hoover's genealogy is as follows: Claude Earl Hoover, son of Alice (Ronk) Hoover; grandson of James Ronk, Jr., born March 23, 1822, died March 6, 1904, married January 16, 1851, to Mary Money, born September 5, 1834, the latter still living. James Ronk, Jr., was the son of James Ronk, Sr., born September 30, 1781, died March 6, 1863, married April 16, 1807, to Hannah Radiker, born February 10, 1788, died April 22, 1878. James Ronk, Sr., was the son of Johannes Ronk, born 1740, and Wilhelmenia Sloat, born 1743, and the grandson of Johunnes George de Rank, born 1690, and Clara Wintenvyck, born 1696. The last named Rank was a French Hugenot and was the founder of the family in America. He located at New Paltz, N. Y., and purchased 2,000 acres of land, which has descended into the family to the present generation, although not intact. Dr. Hoover is also the grandson of Mary Marcella (Money) Ronk, who was the daughter of John Money, born 1800, died 1861; married 1819 to Sarah Johnson, who died in 1847. The Rev. George Money, at one time (1876-7) representative from Williams county in the Ohio legislature, was a brother of Mary (Money) Ronk. John Money was the son of Elisha Money, born 1750, died 1846, married Mary Marcella Summers. Elisha Money was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He and his wife were English people, and lived near Fairfax Court House, Virginia, owning a plantation and 200 slaves. George Johnson was the father of Sarah (Johnson) Money. He was of Irish descent and was born in 1758 and died in 1838. He also lived in Fairfax county, Va., owning a large plantation and many negroes. George W. Hoover, grandfather of Claude E. Hoover, was of German descent. He moved to Ohio from Pennsylvania in 1853 and purchased a tract of land in Millcreek township, Williams county. He enlisted in the Union army, February 24, 1865, in Company D of the One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until December 18, 1865. His regiment was ordered to Harper's Ferry, where it did guard duty for a time, and then went into camp at Winchester, Va., where it was at the time of Lee's surrender. The regiment was then ordered to Alexandria, Va., for provost and guard duty. Dr. Claude E. Hoover married Jessie Fremont Rolland, August 25, 1898, and they have one son, Hillis Rolland Hoover, born February 24, 1902.

ELMER E. HOVERSTOCK, a prominent and successful merchant of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born on the homestead farm on May 31, 1865. He is the representative of a prominent family that came to Ohio from Pennsylvania in pioneer days. His grandparents were Tobias and Margaret (Kollar) Hoverstock. He is the son of George and Mary (Beam) Hoverstock, the father being a native of Wayne county, O., and the mother of the State of Pennsylvania. George Hoverstock was born on March 19, 1818, and reared on the home farm, receiving only a limited education. In 1843 he made a journey on foot to Williams county, when it was still a heavily timbered wilderness, and two years later located on a tract of 40 acres in Superior township, which he at once began to clear, improve and cultivate. Subsequently he added to this tract, first eighty acres and then one hundred and five acres, making a total of two hundred and twenty-five acres in the homestead. He was a successful farmer, served one term each as township trustee and road supervisor, and with his wife was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. On March 23, 1843, he was wedded to Miss Mary Beam, by whom he had ten children. Their names follow: William, a resident of Toledo, O.; Margaret A., the wife of Robert Ogle of Superior township; Amanda, now Mrs. J. C. Crowl of Michigan; Harvey A., of Florence township; Hiram, of Jackson county, Kan.; Albert, of Oklahoma territory; Franklin L., of Cowley county, Kan.; Ida, the wife of J. M. Gibson, of Kansas City, Mo., and Elmer E., and one who died in infancy. George Hoverstock died at the homestead in 1901, his wife having preceded him nine months. Elmer E. Hoverstock grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district schools and the Montpelier graded school. After leaving school he worked for his father on the farm for eight years and then rented the place for a like period of time. In 1897 he purchased the Creek farm of one hundred acres in Superior township, one mile west of Montpelier, where he has ever since made his home. In 1903 he embarked in the agricultural implement and buggy business in Montpelier, his salesroom being one of the largest in the town. Here he has since built up an extensive and profitable business, the results of his untiring energy and scrupulous honesty. When only twenty-eight years old he was elected road supervisor of Superior township, ample proof of his high standing among his fellow citizens. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, taking a deep interest in public affairs. The lady whom he chose as his helpmeet on life's journey was Miss Elizabeth Rettig, who was born in Crawford county, O., in 1864, the daughter of Laurence and Elizabeth (Dargitz) Rettig, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoverstock, as follows: Flossie Neva and George Laurence.

HARVEY A. HOVERSTOCK, a general farmer and stock-raiser of Florence township, Williams county, O., is a native of Superior township, having been born on the homestead on April 2, 1850. He is the son of George and Mary (Beam) Hoverstock, the former a native of Wayne county, O., and the latter of the State of Pennsylvania. George Hoverstock was reared on a farm and received such an education as the public schools of that day afforded. Coming to Williams county in an early day he located on a farm of forty acres in Superior township. After clearing and improving this tract he purchased one hundred and eighty-five acres additional, making a total of two hundred and twenty-five acres in the homestead. The accumulation of such a large body of land demonstrates that he was a man of push and enterprise. In politics he was a Republican, and with his wife a member of the English Lutheran church. Of the ten children born to George Hoverstock and wife nine are still living, one having died in infancy. The father died in 1901, his wife having died the year before. Harvey A. Hoverstock grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education by attending the district schools and Bryan high school. For twenty-one years he resided on a farm of eighty acres in Northwest township. In 1901 he sold this farm and with the proceeds purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives. In the business of general farming and stock-raising he has been quite successful. Having always taken a deep interest in public affairs, he served as trustee and school board member in Northwest township for a number of years. He is a Republican, and with his wife is a member of the United Brethren church. On March 9, 1875, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Griffith, a native of Seneca county, O., whose parents, Joseph and Catherine Griffith, removed to Williams county and located on a farm in Superior township, one mile south of Montpelier, where both died. Joseph Griffith, in addition to farming, followed merchandising in Metz, Steuben county, Ind. To Harvey A. Hoverstock and wife three children have been born, all of whom are living. They are: Ber[illegible] Dever, who married Miss Blanche Hause of Williams county, by whom he has had one daughter, Demerris; Mary Catherine, the wife of [illegible] Hause and the mother of one son, Harald; and Grace, who is now teaching in the Pioneer schools.

GEORGE HUBER, a retired merchant of Edon, Williams county, O., is a native of Germany, where he was born on April 1, 1826. His parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Myre) Huber, were members of prominent and highly respected families in their native country. Six children were born to them, of whom George and a daughter are the only ones now living. George Huber grew to manhood at the homestead and received a liberal education in the excellent public schools of Germany. On September 28, 1852, he landed at the port of New York and resided five years in the metropolis, working at anything that presented itself. From New York City he removed to Richland county, O., where he remained for a like period of time. In 1863 he came to Florence township, Williams county, O., being the second man to engage in business in what is now the town of Edon. Here he built up and conducted successfully for nearly fifty years the business that he disposed of in September, 1902. His long and successful career as a merchant has enabled him to retire with quite a snug competency from the cares of active business life. While always very active in business affairs, he has never been too busy to neglect public matters. For seven years he served as assessor of Florence township and for three years was a member of the school board. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party, and, together with his wife, is a member of the Christian church. On December 12, 1852, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Elizabeth Stenger, born in Germany on January 20, 1833, the daughter of Adam and Julia (Dambrach) Stenger, both of whom lived and died in their native country. To George Huber and wife there have been born eleven children, of whom eight are yet living. The names of the children follow: George H. (deceased), Charles (deceased), Emma, Katie (deceased), Mary, Charles, William J., Louisa, Henry H., Augustus A. and Julia F. In 1902 he and wife celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, on which occasion they were congratulated and substantially remembered by their relatives and numerous friends.

WILLIAM A. HUFFMAN, one of the substantial farmers and representative citizens of Florence township, was born in Wayne county, O., on the 16th of November, 1852, and is a son of John and Anna (Hoffer) Huffman, the former of whom was born in Donegal township, Washington county, Pa., March 5, 1818, while the latter was born in Annville, Lebanon county, that state, February 13, 1822. John Huffman was a son of Jacob and Anna (Detwiler) Huffman, both of whom were born in the canton of Basel, Switzerland, whence they came to America in 1816, landing on the 28th of August. They settled in Pennsylvania, where the mother died about the year 1821, while Jacob Huffman passed the closing days of his life in Wayne county, O., where he died about a year after the demise of his cherished wife. John Huffman was a child of about three years at the time of his father's removal to Wayne county, O., and was left doubly orphaned shortly afterward, as noted in the above record of the death of his parents. In that county he was reared to maturity, securing a common school education, while at the age of sixteen years he entered upon an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, also learning the trade of cabinetmaking and becoming a master workman. On the 24th of March, 1842, he married Miss Anna Hoffer, a daughter of Isaac and Barbara (Hege) Hoffer, who were born and reared in Pennsylvania, where they were married and where the mother died in 1831. Soon afterward Mr. Hoffer removed to Wayne county, O., and in 1844 he came to Williams county and settled in Jefferson township as a pioneer farmer. Here he passed the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1880, while his remains lie at rest in a consecrated spot on the old homestead farm which he secured so many years ago. In 1854 John Huffman purchased eighty acres of land in Madison township, Williams county, and in 1862 he located on the place, where he was thereafter engaged in general farming until his death, in 1867. His widow still resides on the old homestead, which is endeared to her through the memories and associations of many years. She is a devoted member of the Christian church, as was also her husband, and in politics he was originally a Democrat, but was affiliated with the Republican party at the time of his death. This worthy couple became the parents of nine children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Isaac, deceased; Barbara Anna; Lydia Jane, deceased; William Alexander, subject of this sketch; Margaret Elmira; Aldula Keturah; Jacob Frederick, deceased; and John Abraham. William A. Huffman passed his boyhood days in Easton, Wayne county, O., where he secured his early educational training, while later he attended school in Madison township, Williams county, where he was reared to manhood. He learned the carpenter trade, becoming a skilled artisan, and he followed this as a vocation for many years, while for seven seasons he was engaged in the threshing business, operating in Kansas, the Dakotas, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. In 1878 he purchased fifty-six acres of land in Madison township, later disposing of this property and passing the following season as a bridge carpenter for the Wabash railroad company. In 1886 he purchased and took up his residence on his present farm, which comprises ninety-three and one-third acres of excellent land, in Florence township, and he here gives his attention to diversified farming and the raising of an excellent grade of live stock, while the buildings and other permanent improvements are substantial, including a commodious and attractive residence. In his political adherency Mr. Huffman is a stanch Democrat, and he has served as justice of the peace consecutively since 1891, his present and fifth commission expiring in 1906. He was a member of West Unity Lodge, No. 638, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, from which he withdrew to become a charter member of Kunkle Lodge, No. 821, with which he is now affiliated, as is he also with Blakeslee Lodge, No. 502, Knights of Pythias. April 8, 1886, Mr. Huffman was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Holstein, who was born in Germany, being a daughter of John Holstein, who came to Williams county about the year 1854, at which time Mrs. Huffman was an infant. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have no children.

THOMAS INGRAM, a successful farmer residing near Edon. Williams county, O., was born in Wayne county, of that State. on November 17, 1833. Thomas and Elizabeth (Lees) Ingram, his parents, were born, reared and married in Ireland. In 1829 they emigrated to the United States, locating first in Wayne county, O. Here they resided until October 15, 1841, when they removed to Williams county, and in February of the following year settled on the farm of one hundred and twenty acres now owned by their son, Thomas. The clearing of this farm was begun by Thomas Ingram and completed by his son. In politics he always took a deep interest, being an enthusiastic Democrat, and he served one term as justice of the peace. He died at the homestead, in 1852, and was survived by his widow, an ardent member of the Presbyterian church, seven years. To their marriage there were born twelve children, five daughters and seven sons, of whom two died in infancy and ten grew to manhood and womanhood. Of this large family Thomas and two sisters are now the only survivors. Thomas Ingram, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the homestead and educated in the public schools. Since he came into possession of the home farm he has added twenty acres to it, so that he now owns one hundred and forty acres of some of the finest and most productive land in Williams county. With the exception of the eight months spent in the army, he has never been away from the farm for more than two weeks at a time. The farm is well equipped with substantial buildings and the land has been brought to a high state of cultivation. On February 22, 1865, he enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry and served eight months, when he was discharged by virtue of the close of the war. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, and with his wife attends the Methodist Episcopal church, Mrs. Ingram being a member of that church. On November 26, 1857, he was wedded to Miss Magdaline Allman, born in Stark county, O., on May 7, 1839, the daughter of James and Margaret (Anspaugh) Allman, both natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Stark county in an early day. The parents of James Allman were Ebenezer and Agnes (Carroll) Allman, who died in that county. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Ingram were Jacob and Barbara (Stair) Anspaugh, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Stark county in an early day and from there removed to Williams county in 1841. Here both spent the rest of their days. James Allman was a Democrat in politics and a farmer by occupation. He died in 1846, aged forty years, and his widow lived until 1889, dying at the ripe old age of eighty years. To Thomas Ingram and wife there have been born nine children, all of whom are living. They are: Elwood, Margaret, John M., Carrie, James A., Susan, William C., Bessie L. and Ellen.

WILLIAM H. JACKSON, a successful farmer and skillful blacksmith of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., is a native of Massillon, Stark county, of that State, where he was born October 25, 1828. He is the son of Edward and Margaret (Smith) Jackson, both natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather, James Jackson, was a native of Virginia and a blacksmith by occupation. Christopher Smith, his maternal grandfather, was of German birth, who emigrated to America in an early day and served in the Revolutionary war under General Washington, and also in the Black Hawk war. Edward Jackson removed first to Stark county, O., where he resided several years, and then to Ashland county. Later he removed to Blackford county, Ind., where he passed the remainder of his days. Although a farmer by occupation, he did a great deal of legal business. In politics he was first a Whig, then a Free Soiler and finally a Democrat. He and his wife, a member of the Friends' society, both died on the home farm in Blackford county, Ind. They were the parents of eight children, of whom five are yet living. The names of the children are: William H.; Alfred, deceased; Jeremiah, a resident of Birdseye, Ind.; George, of Blackford county, Ind.; Mary Jane, deceased; Sarah Ann and Margaret, both of Blackford county, Ind.; and Samuel, deceased. William H. Jackson left home to battle with the world at the extremely early age of twelve years. Having served an apprenticeship of four years at the blacksmith trade, he, in 1844, plied that trade in Ashland and Richland counties for seven years. His health failing him, he abandoned blacksmithing and for three years conducted a hotel. On April 1, 1860, he removed to Stryker, Williams county, O., and engaged for three years in the grocery business. Selling his grocery stock he invested the proceeds in the farm of sixty acres, where he now resides. To this tract he has added by purchase sixty-four acres, making a total of 124 acres. This land, originally all wooded and quite rough, he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and substantially equipped it with all the buildings that go to make up a first-class farm. While engaged in general farming he has found time to do a great deal of work in the blacksmithing line for the neighboring farmers. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Reformed church. On August 15, 1850, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Backenstow, a native of Richland county, O., who died on September 4, 1901. To them there were born the following children: Mary Jane, still at home; and Bertie Etta, the wife of George W. Bushong of Bloomington, Ill.

HENRY L. JAQUES, a prominent and highly successful farmer near Edgerton, Williams county, O., was born in Defiance county, of that state, May 9, 1842. He is the son of Abraham C. and Anna Jaques, the former a native of France and the latter of Switzerland. Abraham Jaques emigrated to America in 1835 and settled in Defiance county, O., on land lying wholly in the woods, which he at once proceeded to clear. Later he removed to Williams county and cleared a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Melbern. In politics he affiliated with the Democratic party until the birth of the Republican party, when he became an ardent advocate of its principles. He and wife were German Lutherans in Europe, but after coming to America took membership with the German Reformed church. H. L. Jaques grew to manhood on his father's farm, helping to clear it, and receiving a fair public school education, ample to enable him to achieve success in life. He chose farming as his avocation and soon owned a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres, which he gave to his son, L. E. Jaques. Then he bought the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives a retired and contented life. On August 26, 1861, in response to his country's call for defenders, he enlisted in Company A of the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry and saw active service, having been wounded on December 25, 1863, in the battle in front of Chattanooga, and was discharged in May, 1864. While a stanch Republican in politics he has never asked for a public office. Being a Civil war veteran, he is naturally identified with Bryan Post, No. 149, Grand Army of the Republic. He was also a member of the Grange and, with his wife, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Melbern. On July 4, 1867, he was wedded to Miss Lucinda Shafer, a daughter of Amasa and Betsey (Hill) Shafer, pioneers of Williams county, both of whom died at Williams Center. There have been born to H. L. Jaques and wife three children: Lyle E., Lulu Estella and Alzie Wilmetta, who died February 25, 1886, aged three months and twenty-five days. Lyle E. Jaques was educated in the county schools and owns a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres. He is engaged in breeding Shorthorned cattle and Shropshire sheep. He married Miss Susie Augusta Worthington of Williams county. They have three children: Paul Elden, Velma and Olin. Lulu Estella, educated in the public schools and in the select school of Bryan, is the wife of Oswell C. Stauffer, a teacher of Williams county. They have one child, Dale by name.

ALVA SNYDER JOHNSON, a prosperous farmer of Northwest township, was born in Superior township, Williams county, O., on April 27, 1862. He is the son of James R. and Rebecca (Larr) Johnson, the former a native of Beaver county, Pa., and the latter of Butler township, Columbiana county, O., where she was born August 16, 1830. His maternal grandparents were George and Hannah (McNutt) Larr, the latter a daughter of Benjamin and Hannah McNutt, both natives of Redstone, Pa., who came to Columbiana county, O., in an early day. After his death at Mt. Union, his widow, in 1854, removed to Jefferson township, Williams county, where she ended her days. His maternal great-grandparents were George and Esther Larr. James R. Johnson, the father of Alva S. Johnson, was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county. He was skilled in the art of writing. On August 26, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company A of the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry and died in the hospital at Lebanon, Ky., in March, 1862. In politics he was first a Whig and then a Republican. Of the eight children born to James R. Johnson and wife five sons and one daughter are still living. Alva

S. Johnson grew to manhood in Whitley county, Ind., and Northwest township, Williams county, O., and received his education in the common schools of those counties. His mother and family came to Williams county in 1869, where she has since resided. He has always followed farming for a livelihood and now owns fifty acres of valuable land, upon which he built a substantial brick residence in 1903. All this he has made by his own labor, having started with absolutely nothing. In politics he is an ardent Republican and has served as township road supervisor. He is a member of Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1887 he was wedded to Miss Lola M. Smith, born in Wood county, O., in September, 1865, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Truckwell) Smith, citizens of Hillsdale county, Mich. To this union there has been born one son, Louis Victor, born on October 11, 1888, educated in the common schools and a farmer by occupation. James A. Johnson, a twin brother of Alva S. Johnson, was born in Superior township, Williams county, April 27, 1862, and received his education in the common schools. He is a farmer by occupation and owns a farm of eighty-six acres of land. In politics he is a Republican and has served for some years as constable. He is a member of Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On November 14, 1885, he was wedded to Miss Lettie Stallman, of Steuben county, Ind., who only lived eleven weeks after her marriage. Two years later he married Miss Alice R. Rockey, a native of Florence township, Williams county, and the daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Mark) Rockey, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Florence township. To James A. Johnson and second wife there have been born three children. They are: Hulda May, Elva Laota and Effie Celia.

SIMON JOHNSON is one of those men of progressive ideas and liberal business policy who prove beyond all manner of doubt that the vocation of farming and stock-growing can be maintained at the same high standard of business management and resultant profit that can any other of the manifold calling to which men may direct attention. He is one of the most enterprising and successful representatives of the agricultural industry that can be found in Williams county, and is the owner of a fine landed estate in Springfield township. Mr. Johnson was born in the adjoining county of Fulton, on the 30th of April, 1852, and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this section of the Buckeye state. His father, George Johnson, was born in Lincolnshire, England, in the year 1807, being one in a family of seven children—five sons and two daughters. In company with his brother William, George Johnson came to America and settled in what is now German township, Fulton county, O., about the year 1835. They erected grist and saw-mills three and one-half miles north of the present village of Archbold, and the same were familiarly known for many years as "Johnson's Mills." The two brothers mentioned continued the milling business in partnership until the death of George, in 1855. George Johnson was twice married.

His first wife bore the maiden name of Hannah Donutt, and their marriage is said to have been the first solemnized in what is now Brady township, Williams county. They became the parents of five children, one of whom died in infancy, the other four attaining maturity, namely: Sophia, Sabina, Mary Ann and William Henry, the last mentioned having served as a soldier in the Civil war, from August, 1862, until the close of the great struggle which resulted in victory for the Union arms. Of the four children it may be stated that Sophia is deceased; Sabina resides in Europe; Mary Ann is a resident of Michigan; and William Henry makes his home in Garrett, Ind. After the death of his first wife, George Johnson married, on the 16th of November, 1847, Miss Catharine Krontz, who was born in Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of three children: Sarah, who was born September 19, 1848, and who is now the widow of William Ufer, being a resident of Springfield township, Williams county; Solomon, who was born March 2, 1850, and who is a prosperous farmer of Springfield township; and Simon, who is the immediate subject of this review. George Johnson died on the 28th of November, 1855, and in August, 1861, his widow became the wife of John Coy, of Springfield township, and on the 20th of the same month she brought her family to Mr. Coy's home, in said township. Of this second marriage two children were born—Elmer J., who was born November 7, 1863, and who died in Chicago, Ill., January 30, 1899, and Uriah C., who was born January 8, 1868, and who is a successful farmer of Williams county, residing on the old homestead, south of Stryker. Catharine (Krontz) Coy was born May 13, 1829, being one in a family of ten children, and she died at the home of her only daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ufer, on the 10th of December, 1902. She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also her first husband, George Johnson. Simon Johnson was reared in Fulton and Williams counties, having been about nine years of age at the time of his mother's second marriage and attendant removal to Williams county. He secured his educational discipline in the common schools and remained on the home farm until he had attained to his legal majority, since which time he has been engaged in farming and stock-growing on his own account. He was married in the year 1876 and then located on his present homestead, which is most attractively situated in Section 16, Springfield township. He first secured one hundred acres, to which he later added an adjoining sixty acres, so that the homestead now comprises a quarter section, while, a short distance from the home place, he owns another well improved farm of eighty-four acres, the same being in charge of his elder son, who resides upon and operates the place. Mr. Johnson has personally cleared more than sixty acres of wild land, and he has installed on his farms effective systems of tile drainage. He erected his present substantial farm residence in 1883, and five years later remodeled his barn, while the other buildings on his homestead are of excellent order. Mr. Johnson gives his attention principally to diversified agriculture, conducted on scientific principles and with the aid of modern facilities, and he also raises Shorthorn cattle, Chester White swine and a good grade of draft horses. He has never held office, but takes a loyal interest in local affairs, being a stanch Democrat in his political proclivities. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are also identified with the local organization of the Grange. His landed possessions in Springfield township have an aggregate area of three hundred and sixty-four acres, and a portion of the land is leased to good tenants. On the 19th of March, 1876, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Wieland, who was born in Defiance county, O., February 14, 1857, being a daughter of John G. and Rosina C. (Kurtz) Wieland. John G. Wieland was born in Wurtemburg, Germany, November 5, 1823, being one of the eleven children of Gottlieb and Frederica Wieland. Of the children only two attained years of maturity—John G. and Barbara, the latter becoming the wife of Theobold Fisher, of Tonawanda, N. Y., where she died in March, 1873. The family immigrated to America in 1831, settling on a farm near Tonawanda, Erie county, N. Y., where the father died in 1856, his wife having passed away in 1851. John G. Wieland came to Ohio in 1851, locating in Tiffin township, Defiance county, where he still resides, being the owner of an extensive farm. April 9, 1849, he married Miss Rosina C. Kurtz, who was born in January, 1828, in Germany, having had four sisters and three brothers. Three of her sisters came to America in 1840, and in 1848 she also came to the United States. John G. and Rosina C. Wieland became the parents of six children, namely: John A., Emma L., Sophia, Barbara M., Lucinda and Wesley J. Emma L. died May 11, 1879, and Sophia passed away December 18, 1890. Mrs. Rosina C. Wieland died December 9, 1861, and on May 20, 1862, Mr. Wieland married Sarah Moon, who was born in Defiance county, O., in July, 1838, being a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Moon. Six children were born of the second marriage, namely: Evaline, Christopher B., George B., Harriet, Cora A. and Fannie. In conclusion is entered a brief record concerning the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson: Elmer Solomon Johnson was born February 28, 1879, and was graduated in the high school at Stryker as a member of the class of 1894. Thereafter he was successfully engaged in teaching school for five years, after which he completed the scientific course in the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Ind. On the 26th of March, 1903, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Bell Young, daughter of Samuel and Susan Young, and he then took up his residence on one of his father's farms, in Springfield township, as previously intimated in this context. Alta Maud Johnson was born September 11, 1880, and she likewise was graduated in the Stryker high school, in the class of 1895. After teaching five terms in the district schools she entered the Tri-State Normal College, Angola, Ind., where she completed her classical course, being graduated as a member of the class of 1902. On the 28th of August, of that year, she was united in marriage to Charles H. Brady, of Gaston, Ind., who was graduated in the same college in the same year that she was, and they have been teaching in the public graded schools of Muncie, Ind., ever since their marriage, Mr. Brady having been superintendent for six years, while Mrs. Brady has held the position of principal for four years. Charles Simon Johnson was born January 2, 1883, and died January 19, 1885. Edward Frankland Johnson was born October 8, 1889, and he is a member of the class of 1906 in the Stryker high school at the time of this writing, while he assists his father in the work of the home farm.

WILLIAM JOICE, a successful farmer of Northwest township, Williams county, O., is a native of Crawford county, where he was born on May 5, 1843. His paternal grandfather, William Joice, died in Pennsylvania. John Johnstone, his maternal grandfather, was born in Ireland, emigrated to the United States and located in Wood county, O., in an early day, where he ended his days. William Joice is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Johnstone) Joice, the former born in Pennsylvania in 1790 and the latter in Ireland. Henry Joice after his marriage removed from his native State, first to Richland county, O., and later to Crawford county. In 1860 he came to Williams county, locating on a tract of sixty-five acres of timber land, which he at once proceeded to clear and prepare for cultivation. In politics he was at first identified with the Democratic party, but later he became an advocate of the principles of the Republican party. He died in 1863 and was survived by his widow until 1874. Of the seven children born to these parents four are now living. William Joice grew to manhood on the parental farm and received his education by attending the common schools of his home county. At present he owns a farm of fifty-four acres on which he resides, engaged in general farming. In politics he is a Republican, and at present is serving as school director. In 1868 he was wedded to Miss Emma Jane Gloar, born in Crawford county, O., on August 2, 1850. She is the daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Urich) Gloar, natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel Gloar removed from his native state, first to Crawford county, O., and in 1864 to Williams county, locating on a farm of one hundred and thirty acres. Here he died on April 20, 1888, and was survived by his widow, who died June 4, 1895. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Joice was John Gloar, a native of Switzerland, who emigrated to America, locating first in Pennsylvania and then in Ohio, where he was one of the early settlers of Williams county. Here he died in 1875. To William Joice and wife there have been born the following children: Minnie, the wife of John Boyer of Bridgewater township; May, now Mrs. Charles Kime of Northwest township; Walter, a resident of Stryker, O.; Harvey, a farmer; and Roy, Orrin, George Washington and Orville, all still at home. Mr. Joice is a member of Hiram Louden Post, No. 155, Grand Army of the Republic at Montpelier, O. On September 26, 1864, he became a private in Company H, Forty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, and he at once saw active service near Atlanta, Ga. Soon afterward he took the measles and was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga. After he recovered sufficiently to join his command he found it at Goldsboro, N. C., and was at Raleigh, N. C., at the time of Johnston's surrender to Sherman. From Raleigh he marched with his company to Washington and took part in the Grand Review. On June 13, 1865, he received his honorable discharge at Columbus, O., and returned to his home in Williams county.

JAMES HARRISON JONES, a prominent and highly respected farmer of Florence township, Williams county, O., is a native of Virginia, where he was born in 1845. His parents were Robert and Susannah (Fetters) Jones, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. They removed from Virginia to Defiance county, O., in 1850, and for two years rented the Collin Tharp farm. Then they came to Farmer township and bought a farm of eighty acres one and one-fourth miles from Williams Center. He was a farmer and shoemaker by occupation, having plied the latter avocation while a resident of Virginia. In politics he was a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the United Brethren church, having left the Lutheran church because there was no church handy. Seven children were born to Robert Jones and his wife, of whom three are yet living. The paternal grandparents of James H. Jones were George and Catherine Jones, both natives of Virginia, where they lived and died. Of the four children born to them only one, a resident of Missouri, is now living. Samuel and Catherine (Catimer) Fetters, his maternal grandparents, were both natives of Pennsylvania, who removed in an early day to Berkley county, Va., both dying on a farm near Martinsburg. James Harrison Jones grew to manhood on a farm and received his common school education in the schools of Defiance county. In 1871 he removed to Florence township, Williams county, and settled on the farm that he had purchased two years before. After clearing his farm of eighty acres he added forty to it, so that he now owns altogether one hundred and twenty acres. This land has been brought to a high state of cultivation and is well equipped with substantial buildings. Stock dealing and general farming constitute the occupation of Mr. Jones. He is a Democrat in politics, and with his wife were members of the Lutheran church. In 1871 he was joined in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Catherine Weidler, born in Pennsylvania, on June 22, 1845, the daughter of Jerry and Henrietta (Rudy) Weidler, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Defiance county in an early day and spent the rest of their days there. Of the eight children born to them seven are yet living. To James H. Jones and wife there were born three children, as follows: Elsworth, born May 21, 1874, educated in the common schools and living on his father's farm; Charles Bearl, who was born on May 7, 1881, educated in the common schools and died on December 23, 1897; and J. Glenn, born April 6, 1883, educated in the country schools, the Edon high school and the Angola, Ind., Tri-State Normal, from which institution he graduated with the class of 1905, being now a teacher by occupation, having taught four terms. Mrs. Jones died on February 27, 1896.

GEORGE RAWSON JOY, one of the prominent farmers of Pioneer, Williams county, O., was born in Windham county, Conn., on June 8, 1819. He is the son of Elias and Mary (Wakefield) Joy, both natives of Connecticut. They removed to Massachusetts from their native State and later returned to Connecticut, where both ended their days. Elias Joy worked in the first cotton factory in Rhode Island, built by a Mr. Slater. He was overseer of a cording machine in Massachusetts. His last days were spent on a farm. In politics he was a Whig. His wife was identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the eight children born to Elias Joy and wife only one is living. George Rawson Joy was reared in Connecticut until twelve years of age, when he removed with his parents to Massachusetts. At the age of sixteen years he began to care for himself. From Massachusetts he went to Jefferson county, N. Y., where for five years he worked for a man in the lumber business. Then he went to Chicago, traveling from Buffalo by the last boat to go up the lake in 1842, the name of the boat being the "Superior." After a stay of one winter in Chicago he went, in March, to Lenawee county, Mich., driving a horse hitched to what he calls a "pung," on which he rode. There he worked two seasons, by the month, near Morenci, Mich. He erected the first house built in Morenci, which was used for a hotel. He owned sixty acres of land near Morenci, but sold it and removed to Williams county, O., on April 5, 1848, and located on the same land he owns to-day. At that time there were but four houses between Pioneer and Bryan. For thirty years he successfully conducted the Joy Hotel, the building having been erected by him. The west side of Pioneer was built on the one hundred and sixty acres of land that he had previously bought. He has owned sixteen hundred acres of land within four miles of Pioneer. In stock dealing and the breeding of road horses and Durham cattle he has been actively engaged. The first drove of cattle driven across the Maumee river, in 1846, was purchased by him. In merchandising he has been equally successful. To-day he is one of the well-to-do men of the county, having made all that he possesses by his own exertions. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party. He has held the offices of school director and county commissioner, having been elected to the latter position by the largest majority ever given a candidate in the county. In religious matters his family are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Joy holds membership in Joy Lodge, No. 441, Free and Accepted Masons, and Joy Lodge, No. 461, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was first wedded to Miss Parmelia Cottrell, who died three years after marriage. His second wife was Mrs. Lucy Rogers, by whom he had the following children: Fidella, Ada and Ida (twins), Alice, Albert and Emma (twins), now deceased. By her first husband Mrs. Joy had the following children: Lucy, Mary Ann and Josephine. She died January 24, 1892. Miss Jane K. Norris, the third wife of Mr. Joy, was a sister of his second wife. She died April 14, 1896. Mrs. Addie Arnold, a widow, of Bryan, O., was his choice for a fourth wife.

FRED C. KAISER, a prominent and successful merchant of Edon, Williams county, O., was born on May 24, 1874. He is the son of John Kaiser, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Fred C. Kaiser was reared on his father's farm and educated in the Edon high school. After working for one year in the capacity of clerk in the establishment of Mr. Jones he took a course in telegraphy at a commercial school in St. Louis, Mo. His first railroad work was performed in the Wabash railway company's office at Adrian, Mich., where he was stationed for three years. For the next two years he was manager of a general store at Blakeslee, O., th property of Judge Charles A. Bowersox. Forming a partnership with J. B. Wallick, he purchased the business at Blakeslee and conducted it profitably for two years, when the firm of Kaiser & Wallick was dissolved. In 1900 Mr. Kaiser bought the business of Cannon & Miller at Edon, O., which he has since conducted with unusual success. As far as national issues in politics are concerned he is a Democrat, but in local elections he acts independently, preferring to use his own judgment in the selection of men for the home offices, a trait of character that is certainly commendable in him. Absorbed as his time has been in business affairs, he has, notwithstanding, not neglected the interests of a good citizen in public matters. His service as treasurer of Blakeslee and councilman of Edon was creditable to himself and valuable to the public. Together with his wife he is a member of the German Lutheran church. On August 12, 1897, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Bertha Denny of Bryan. To this union there have been born four children. They are: Florence E., Frederick C., Thelma and Carlton. While Mr. Kaiser is still a comparatively young man, he has made for himself an excellent reputation as a successful business man and an exemplary citizen. By dint of close application to business and the exercise of sound judgment he has earned the unusual success that he now enjoys. Certainly no one stands higher in the community than Mr. Kaiser.

JOHN GEORGE KAISER, SR., a prominent and highly respected citizen of Edon, Williams county, O., was born in Columbiana county on January 20, 1833. He is the son of John George Kaiser, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. John George Kaiser, Sr., grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education by attendance at the common schools of his native county. After he attained his majority he learned the carpenter trade and followed that avocation for eight years. In 1859 he removed with his parents to a farm in Williams county, where he followed general farming until 1890, when he removed to Edon to take charge of the grain elevator there. This elevator was erected and owned for three years by Mr. Kaiser. While managing the grain business he found time to devote to farming. Both as a farmer and a grain merchant he has been quite successful, as is indicated by his fine residence and its surroundings in Edon. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party, having served both as township trustee and street commissioner, and in religious belief he and family are affiliated with the Lutheran church. In 1861 he was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Elizabeth Kalb, who was born in Crawford county, O., in 1842, and died in Florence township, Williams county, in 1885. The following children were born to this union: John D., Katie, George, Lizzie, Clara, Jacob F. and Hannah. Jacob F. Kaiser, the only son now at home, was born in Florence township on April 21, 1881, and was educated in the common schools and the Edon high school. He worked on a farm until 1904, when he was appointed a mail-carrier on the rural free delivery route No. 3. In politics he is a Democrat.

SAMUEL D. KAISER, a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Florence township, Williams county, O., was born on the old homestead on November 23, 1875. He is the grandson of John George Kaiser, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. William F. and Catherine (Klink) Kaiser were the parents of Samuel D. Kaiser. John George Kaiser emigrated to America when William F. was only two years old and located in Columbiana county, O. After a short stay there Wiliam F. removed with his parents first to Richland county and afterwards to Williams county, locating on a farm of one hundred and eighty acres in Florence township, eighty acres of which he sold before his death. At one time he was the owner of no less than three hundred acres. At the time of the marriage of each of his children he provided them with a good start in life. This necessitated the selling of a considerable portion of his land, so that at his death the homestead contained but one hundred acres. As the land on which William F. Kaiser settled was heavily timbered, he proceeded at once to clear it and then to improve and cultivate it. All buildings erected on the farm are of a substantial character, and prove that the owner was a successful farmer. He died at the homstead on April 2, 1904, and is survived by his widow, now sixty-six years old. To William F. Kaiser and wife there were ten children born, of whom seven are still living. Those living are: Lena, George F., Mary, Rebecca, Anna, Sarah and Samuel D. Samuel D. Kaiser was reared on the home farm and received his education by attending the country schools. As manager of the homestead he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of raising Shropshire sheep. Under his skillful management this has become quite a profitable and extensive industry. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party, being an earnest advocate of its principles. In 1895 he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Ida Kiess, a native of Crawford county, O., where she was born in 1876. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Cook) Kiess of Crawford county. Mrs. Kiess having died in 1876, Ida Kiess was reared by her uncle, William F. Kiess, a resident of Edon, but formerly of Steuben county, Ind. To Samuel D. Kaiser and wife two children have been born. They are: Mildred, born October 6, 1899, and Pauline, born November 11, 1902.

WILLIAM F. KAISER, senior partner of the Edon Hardware Company of Edon, Williams county, O., was born in Florence township, of that county, on December 9, 1866. He is the son of John and Christina (Hieber) Kaiser, the former born in Richland county, O., January 11, 1837, and the latter in Germany on August 16, 1843. His paternal grandparents were John George and Eva Barbara Kaiser, both natives of Germany, the former born March 25, 1802, and the latter May 28, 1801. They were married in their native country and with their two children, William and Mary, emigrated to the United States in 1833, and located first in Columbiana county, O. Five years later they removed to Richland county, O., where they resided until 1859, when they finally removed to Williams county. John George Kaiser was a tailor by trade, a farmer by occupation and a Democrat in politics. He died March 24, 1875, his wife having died on December 22, of the previous year. Five children were born to these parents after they came to America. Their names follow: John George, John, Barbara, Catherine and Elizabeth. George and Frederika (Schnarrenberger) Hieber, the maternal grandparents of William F. Kaiser, were both natives of Germany, having been born in that country in 1812. After their marriage in the old country they emigrated to America in 1852, settling on a farm in Crawford county, O., where he died in 1883, and his widow a year later. He was a farmer, a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the German Methodist church. John Kaiser came to Williams county with his parents in 1859 and located on a farm of two hundred and forty acres one-half mile south of Edon. After his marriage in this county he purchased for himself a farm of eighty acres in the same township. Selling this land, he invested the proceeds in a farm of one hundred and sixty acres three miles northwest of Edon, where he carried on the business of general farming until 1877. Then he disposed of this farm and returned to the old homestead, where he resided for twenty years, directing the management of the home farm. In 1897 he removed to Edon and made that his home for the remainder of his days. After his removal to Edon he purchased a grist-mill, which his sons operated for about eight years. This property was then exchanged for a stock of dry-goods in Edon, owned by Mr. D. D. Keiss, and the dry-goods store for a farm in Richland township, Steuben county, Ind., known as the Bails farm. The Bails farm was later exchanged for another in the same township, which in turn was soon afterwards sold by Mr. Kaiser. In politics he was affiliated with the Democratic party, serving for some years as township treasurer. Mr. Kaiser and wife were devout members of the German Methodist church. He died on July 16, 1902, highly esteemed by all who knew him. To these parents there were born the following children: William F.; Lizzie Weber of Edgerton, O.; John G., junior member of the Edon Hardware Company; Eva, who died in infancy; Fred C., a merchant of Edon; and Christina Sheline of Edon. William F. Kaiser was reared on the parental farm and educated in the Edon high school. At the age of sixteen he began working for his father in the grist-mill and continued at that work until twenty-three years old. For the next three years he clerked for his father in the dry-goods business, and then for eight months in the hardware store of William E. Gross. In 1893 he and his brother, John G. Kaiser, exchanged real estate for a general store in Blakeslee, O., which they conducted very successfully until 1897, when they sold their business at Blakeslee and removed to Edon to enter upon the business now known as the Edon Hardware Company. Under their management this business has prospered beyond all reasonable expectation. To the original business there have been added a fully equipped lumber yard and all kinds of building material, including cement, sash, doors, etc. The large three-roomed block, the main room of which is utilized in their business, is owned by this company. In addition to this valuable property the company owns the postoffice building and the Vanderbogart brick block. Mr. Kaiser is a Democrat in politics, and has served as township treasurer and member of the school board. In religious belief he and his wife are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. On April 28, 1888, he was wedded to Miss Alice Eyster, the daughter of S. S. Eyster, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. John G. Kaiser, the junior partner of the Edon Hardware Company, was born in Florence township, Williams county, January 29, 1871. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the Edon high school. He then entered McDermit's Business college of Ft. Wayne, Ind., from which he graduated. His first employment after quitting school was with his father in the general store at Edon, where he clerked for six months. Then he and his elder brother, William F. Kaiser, engaged in general merchandising at Blakeslee, O., until 1896, when he came to Edon and clerked for Charles A. Bowersox for nearly a year. The following year he and his brother formed the Edon Hardware Company, previously mentioned in this sketch. He is a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On December 27, 1900, he was wedded to Miss Ethel Lash, born in Williams county on May 26, 1878, the daughter of Elmer Lash, a prominent farmer of Florence township. On November 9, 1904, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser a daughter, Pauline by name.

AARON LUTHER KAST, a retired farmer and popular citizen of Pioneer, has passed practically his entire life in Williams county, and is a representative of one of its stanch pioneer families of German descent. He was born in Lancaster county, Pa., on the 6th of November, 1843, and is a son of John R. and Christena Kast, both of whom were born in Germany, and both of whom were children at the time of the immigration of the respective families to America, settlement being made in Pennsylvania, where John R. and his wife were reared to maturity and married. In 1846 they came to Ohio and located in Ashland county, where they remained until 1848, when they took up their residence in Springfield township, Williams county, while later they removed to Madison township, the father becoming a prosperous farmer and continuing to be actively concerned in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1876, his wife having passed away in 1872. Both were consistent members of the United Brethren church, and he was a supporter of the Republican party from the time of its organization until his demise. Aaron L. Kast was reared on the farm and contributed his due share to its work, as did all of the children in the family. They were twelve in number and only three are now living. He received such educational advantages as were to be had in the common schools of the locality, which he attended during the winter months, assisting in the farm work during the summer seasons, and remaining on the homestead until he had attained the age of twenty-one years. He learned the carpenter trade after leaving the farm, and during the war of the Rebellion he was employed in the government service two and one-half years as a carpenter. He then resumed his identification with the great basic art of agriculture, which enlisted his active co-operation until his retirement, a few years ago. He cleared a tract of one hundred and five acres of land, and his present fine homestead comprises ninety-five acres, of which fifteen acres are within the corporate limits of the town of Pioneer. In politics Mr. Kast votes in harmony with his convictions, rendering an unwavering allegiance to the Prohibition party, and he is at the present time a member of the board of education of Pioneer. He and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1866 Mr. Kast was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Thompson, who was born in Beaver county, Pa., whence her parents came to Ohio in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Kast became the parents of two daughters, of whom the elder, Ina, died in childhood. Grace is the wife of F. M. Bostater, of Madison township, and they have one child, Mildred, born in 1905.

LAFE V. KEENER, a well-known citizen and successful ice-dealer of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born in Morrow county, O., March 24, 1863. He is the son of John and Mary A. (Kleinfelter) Keener, the former a native of Crawford county and the latter of Morrow county, both in Ohio. His paternal grandfather, William Keener, was a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler of Crawford county. His maternal grandfather, Michael Kleinfelter, was also a native of Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1863 the parents of Lafe V. Keener removed to Defiance county and settled on a farm in Hicksville township, where his mother died in October, 1894, and where his father is still residing on the homestead. To John and Mary Keener there were born two sons: Chalmers, the elder, was born in Morrow county in 1857, and was reared on the home farm. He is now a resident of Hicksville, where he is engaged in the ice business. He was united in marriage to Miss Alice Goff. No children have been born to this union. Lafe V. Keener, the younger son, was only seven months old when his parents came to Defiance county, where he was reared on the farm in Hicksville township, receiving his education in the public schools. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years old, and then clerked in a general store in Hicksville for five years. He was next engaged in the insurance business for three and a half years. Then he farmed for about two years. In March, 1896, he came to Bryan and purchased the ice business of John H. Shouf, which business he has ever since successfully conducted. His large ice-house holds thirty-five hundred tons of ice, most of which is sold in Bryan. He also manufactures ice cream, supplying Bryan and the surrounding country with that delicious commodity. To supply the demand requires from one hundred to two hundred gallons a day. Mr. Keener is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the National Union, a Democrat in politics, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. On April 25, 1888, he was united in marriage to Miss Maude Cowhick, born in Bryan, O., on October 7, 1868, the daughter of Daniel and Nancy A. (Shouf) Cowhick, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Daniel Cowhick was born April 21, 1833, and his wife on June 26, 1846, in Ashland county. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Keener was William Cowhick, a native of Pennsylvania, who was married to a Miss Rex. Her maternal grandfather was John B. Shouf. The father of Mrs. Keener died in August, 1884, and his widow still lives, residing at Hicksville. The following three children were born to the parents of Mrs. Lafe V. Keener: Minnie M., the wife of George K. Otis, who are the parents of two children, Lloyd and Vera; Mrs. L. V. Keener, and a son who died in infancy. To Lafe V. Keener and wife there have been born the following children: Gwendolin, born April 10, 1890, and died the following September; Kenyon Keith, born July 14, 1893; Ethel Lucile, born October 20, 1896; and Carmen, Constance and Connie, triplets, all of whom died in infancy.

E. A. KEISER, M. D., one of the leading physicians and citizens of Bryan, Williams county, O., was born in Richland county, of that state, on April 4, 1838. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Worst) Keiser. The Keiser family is of German stock, but has been in America many generations, the progenitors having come over and settled in Pennsylvania early in the Nineteenth century. It was in the Keystone state that Jacob Keiser was born. He grew to manhood in Somerset county and at the age of twenty-three years removed to Ohio, locating in Wayne county, where he engaged in farming. In 1833 he removed to Richland county, where he followed farming the balance of his active life. In 1875 he removed to Bryan and died there in 1876. He was married in Wayne county to Miss Elizabeth Worst, who survived him two years, dying in 1878. Dr. E. A. Keiser grew to manhood in Richland county, receiving such an education as the common schools afforded. In 1860 he came to Williams county and began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. A. Netz in Millcreek township, continuing there for two years. He then returned to Richland county and completed his medical studies the following year under Dr. Francis Stohl. During the winter of 1863-64 Dr. Keiser attended the Homeopathic Medical College at Cleveland, from which institution he graduated with the class of 1866. He first began the practice of his profession in Richland county, near the place where he wa born, but in 1867 he located permanently in Bryan. On October 10, 1867, Dr. Keiser was married to Miss Lydia J. Brown, a native of Williams county and the daughter of Jacob Brown. The following children have been born to them: Romeo O., who graduated from the Bryan high school and then entered the Ohio State University, from which he also graduated. He is also a graduate of the Ohio Medical College and the Homeopathic College at Cleveland. He also graduated from the O. W. U. before he went to Cleveland. He is a registered pharmacist and practices at Columbus. He is married to Miss Belle Dyer. (Glessner) Kennedy, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father Forest L., the second child, is a graduate of the Bryan high school and the Ohio State University, and is now attending the Ohio Medical College. J. Gould, the youngest child, is a graduate of the Bryan high school and is now a student at the Ohio State University, being a member of the Junior class.

JACOB KELLY, deceased, in his lifetime an honored citizen of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., was born in Stark county of that state, January 3, 1822. He was the son of John and Christina (Brothers) Kelly, natives respectively of Delaware and Pennsylvania. He grew to manhood, receiving a fair common school education. When eight years old he went with his parents to Wayne county, O. Here, in 1840, he began milling, and for fourteen years followed that business at various points. In 1850, during the gold excitement in California, he made the overland trip to that state, but returned to Ohio a year later and purchased seventy-two acres of land in Pulaski township, where he took up the occupation of farming, which business occupied his attention the remainder of his active life. When grim-visaged war had rent the nation in twain, and the patriotic sons of the land were called upon to fight the battles of their country, Mr. Kelly promptly responded to the call. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company H of the Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His experiences during the years that immediately followed are largely the history of the regiment, as he actively participated in the services that made the old Thirty-eighth famous as a fighting regiment. On September 22, 1861, he went with it to Camp Denison, Columbus, where the regiment was armed, equipped and partially drilled. In October it was sent into the field in Kentucky, encamping first at Nicholasville, where it remained two weeks, and then was ordered on a forced march of sixty miles to the relief of Wild Cat, Ky., reaching that point on October 19. It pursued the enemy on several occasions, after which it took up winter quarters at Somerset, not to remain idle, however. The winter of 1861-62 was a very sickly one for the regiment and at one time less than three hundred out of nine hundred and ninety men were fit for active duty. In March following, the regiment was ordered to Nashville, Tenn., and a little later began the campaign through Middle Tennessee. In April and May it participated in the siege of Corinth, then pursued Beauregard to Boonville and, returning to Corinth, encamped there. In June the regiment marched to Tuscumbia, Ala., and in August to Winchester, Tenn. Mr. Kelly was with his regiment on the terrible march from Chattanooga to the Ohio river, and in September fought at Chaplin's Hills. Then the regiment went into camp at Rolling Forks, Ky., on October 27. From this point another march to Nashville was made, and during the months of November and December, 1862, the regiment guarded the railroad between Gallatin and Nashville. In December it took part in the campaign that terminated in the bloody battle of Stone River. After the battle it remained near the city of Murfreesboro until March, 1863, when it moved to Triune and built Fort Phelps. During the summer of 1863 the regiment took part in the Tullahoma campaign. Mr. Kelly, having served two years, was given a furlough to visit his home and there, on September 10, he re-enlisted for the remainder of the war. He joined his regiment at Ringgold, Ga., where recruits were received and the depleted ranks raised to seven hundred and forty-one men. In May, 1864, the regiment skirmished briskly at Buzzard Roost Gap and its fortifications nearly in the rear of Resaca, where a number of men were killed and wounded. It took an active part in the siege of Kenesaw, and in July moved to the Chattahoochie river, establishing the picket line of the Fourteenth army corps near Atlanta. From that point it moved in August to Utoy Creek. On August 7, while engaged in these operations around Atlanta, Mr. Kelly was shot through the jaw, and after spending several months in the hospital was discharged for disability at Cincinnati on December 22, 1864. Entering the service as a private he rose through the various grades, and at the time of his discharge held a commission as second lieutenant. On returning to his home in Pulaski township he resumed the occupation of farming. In 1873 he received the nomination of the Republican party for the office of auditor of Williams county and was elected by a liberal majority. In 1875 he was re-elected, serving altogether four years. On January 2, 1855, Jacob Kelly was wedded to Miss Elvira J. Shorthill, a native of Pennsylvania. To this union nine children were born, as follows: James Jefferson, who died in October, 1896; Charles F., a resident of Goshen, Ind.; Mrs. Andrew Grim, of Pulaski township; Lew Wallace, of Goshen; Sherman and Lincoln, of Bryan; Earl and Tena, deceased, and Harry M., of Pulaski township. His widow is still living. Sherman Kelly, the fifth child of Jacob Kelly, was born at the old home in Pulaski township on May 10, 1864. He grew to manhood on the farm, receiving a common school education. In 1887 he went to Michigan, where he spent one year, when he returned to Bryan. Then he removed to the State of Washington, where he spent two years on Puget Sound, and from there to Lower California, where he spent three years. On his return to the east he spent some time at Bryan, after which he removed to Goshen, Ind., and spent five years there in a machine shop. He then returned to Bryan and with his brother engaged in the insurance business, the style of the firm being Kelly Brothers. He is married to Miss Florence Markel, a native of Williams county, the daughter of Jonathan Markel. Lincoln Kelly, one of the members of the firm of Kelly Brothers, was born in Pulaski township, on the old homestead, on September 9, 1866. He too grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving a common school education. He farmed in different parts of the county until 1896, when he took charge of the county jail as deputy sheriff, serving under Albro Wirick, which position he held for one year. In the years 1897 and 1898 he acted as an insurance solicitor in Bryan, and in 1899 he and his brother Sherman bought out the firm of A. Knepper & Son, insurance agents. On December 24, 1895, he was united in marriage to Miss Dora Clay, a native of West Unity, Williams county, the daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Clay, of Bryan, the former being a county commissioner. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, as follows: Charles Holland and Leota Elizabeth. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The firm of Kelly & Brother does a greater amount of insurance business than any other firm in Williams county. The following are the various companies represented by this firm: The Equitable Life Assurance Society, the Central Accident of Pittsburg, the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York, the Lloyds Plate Glass of New York, the Bankers Surety Company of Cleveland, the Ohio Farmers, the Northwestern Underwriters' Agency, the Anchor of Cincinnati, the American Central of St. Louis and the Agricultural of Watertown, New York.

ALBERT W. KENNEDY is numbered among the representative farmers of Pulaski township and stands high in the estimation of the community, in which he has maintained his home for more than thirty years. He was born in Ashland county, O., on the 10th of June, 1848, and is a son of George W. and Catharine C. Herald, a weekly paper, at Claremont, Surry county, Va. Not later married Ann R. Buchan, who survived him by a number of years. George W. Kennedy became the owner of a farm of eighty acres in Ashland county, and he sold this property for twenty-five hundred dollars, after which, in 1855, he came to Williams county and purchased two hundred acres in Section 1, Pulaski township, where he developed a fine farm, upon which he passed the remainder of his life, while much of the estate is still held by his heirs. He was a stanch Republican in politics from the time of the organization of the party until his demise in February, 1879, and his religious faith was that of the Reformed church. The following data designate somewhat concerning the children of his first marriage: John A., who had been a successful teacher, enlisted in defense of the Union at the time of the Civil war, becoming a member of Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served three years, and being severely wounded he died in a hospital at Jeffersonville, Ind.; Francis, who was a member of the same company and regiment and served three years, was for twenty-five years engaged in the drug business in Bryan, O., but now is retired from business; Catherine resides in Pulaski township, this county, being the widow of Charles Boynton, who died in 1904; George W., who likewise served during the major portion of the civil war in the same company with his elder brothers, is a prominent farmer of Clay county, Kan.; Albert W. is the subject of this sketch; Hurlbert is a resident of Clay county, Kan., being a farmer by vocation. Five children were born of the second marriage, namely: Arthur, who is a teacher by profession, residing in New York city; William, who resides in Pulaski, Williams county, O., being a barber by trade; Nettie, who married Levi Deck and is now deceased; Cora, who is the wife of William Borton, of New York city; and Gratton, who is a successful physician and surgeon at Elkton, South Dakota. Albert W. Kennedy secured his educational training in the common schools and continued to assist in the work and management of the home farm until his marriage, in 1870. He then farmed on rented land for two years, and in 1873 he purchased forty acres of his present fine farmstead, in Section 12, Pulaski township, while he later added to its area by an additional purchase of adjoining land and has now eighty-four acres, nearly all of which is under effective cultivation, while he had erected good buildings on the place, whose improvements were very meagre at the time when he purchased the property. He has carried forward his agricultural and stock-growing enterprise with marked energy and discrimination, and has thus met with enviable success and gained prestige as one of the model farmers of the county. He has rendered effective service as a member of the school board, though never an aspirant for office, and is known as a stanch adherent of the Republican party, while both he and his wife retain membership in the United Brethren church. February 23, 1870, Mr. Kennedy was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Stump, who was born in Hancock county, O., being a daughter of Ephraim and Esther (Houser) Stump, natives of Stark county, O., whence they removed to Hancock county, when, in 1865, they came to Williams county and located in Pulaski township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They became the parents of ten children, namely: Daniel, who died at the age of twenty-two years; Freeman, who died at Murfreesboro, Tenn., while serving as a Union soldier; Isaiah, who resides in Olivet, Mich.; Levi, who is deceased; Matilda, who is the wife of Mr. Kennedy, of this review; Amanda, who is deceased; Franklin, who is a resident of Butler, Ind.; Lydia, who is the wife of Thomas Hager, of West Unity, O.; Milton, who is a bricklayer and resides in Knox county, O.; and Ithalna, who died in infancy.

In conclusion is entered a brief sketch concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy: Ola is the wife of Robert Reynolds, of Conneaut, O.; Emory, who married Miss Rosa Stuckey, now owns and resides on the old Kennedy homestead; Ross, who also remains at the parental home and assists in the management of the farm, was a member of Company C, Sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American war; Gertrude is the wife of Joseph Chappius, of Springfield township; Frank is a resident of Defiance, O., and Alvertie remains at home and is engaged in teaching in the local schools. All of the children had good educational advantages and all have been popular in the social life of the community in which they were reared.

OLIN KENYON, editor and publisher of the West Unity Reporter, was born near Pioneer, Williams county, O., on the 29th of August, 1858, and he was afforded the advantages of the public schools in West Unity, where he laid the foundation for that liberal education which he has gained through the discipline of a newspaper office and through active association with men and affairs. He is a son of Charles G. and Susan M. (Griffin) Kenyon, the former of whom was born near Sackett's Harbor, Jefferson county, N. Y., on the 2d of June, 1820, while the latter was born near Fayette, Fulton county, O., May 16, 1839. The paternal great-grandfather of Olin Kenyon was Barnabas Kenyon, who was born in Rhode Island, December 27, 1762, and who there married Susannah Clark, a native of the same state. They removed to Montgomery county, N. Y., when their eldest son, Barnabas, Jr., was six years of age, his birth having occurred on the 27th of May, 1786. Barnabas, Jr., married Betsy Parkhurst, of Whitesboro, N. Y., May 6, 1810, and they removed to Jefferson county, N. Y., where their son Charles G. was born, as noted above. In the summer of 1836 Barnabas Kenyon removed with his family from Jefferson county, N. Y., to northern Indiana, and in that state he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Susan M. (Griffin) Kenyon is a daughter of Obediah and Martha (Kenyon) Griffin, the former of whom was born in Meredith township, Delaware county, N. Y., May 8, 1805, having been a son of William and Anna (Griffin) Griffin. His wife was a daughter of James and Susannah (Palmer) Kenyon. Obediah Griffin was one of the pioneers of Gorham township, Fulton county, O., and assisted in cutting the first crop of wheat raised in said township. Charles G. Kenyon was a tailor by trade, but for several years did a profitable business in Northern Ohio and Indiana and Southern Michigan, running a paper wagon, selling wrapping paper and writing paper to country and village merchants, and buying paper-rags. During the last years of his life Charles G. Kenyon owned and conducted a hotel on the site of the present Dodge House, in West Unity, and here he died on the 15th of December, 1877. April 28, 1898, his widow became the wife of Ansel B. Ford, of Fayette, O., where they now reside. Mr. and

Mrs. Kenyon were the parents of three children, all of whom are living. After leaving the public schools Olin Kenyon taught one term in a country district of Fulton county, and shortly afterward entered the office of the West Unity Eagle, where he learned the printer's trade. In 1883 he went to Hyde county, Dakota, where he took up land, and for two and one-half years he had charge of the Herald, at Highmore, the county seat of Hyde county, which is now in South Dakota. He left the territory of Dakota in 1886 and for about two years thereafter resided in or near his old home, while in 1888-9, for somewhat more than a year, he published the Herald, a weekly paper, at Claremont, Surry county, Va. Not liking the South, he returned to the North, and after a short residence in Chicago was compelled, on account of illness, in January, 1890, to return to his old home in West Unity, where his mother then resided. In April of the same year he leased the West Unity Chief, and three months later began the publication of the West Unity Reporter, of which he has since been editor and publisher. The paper is non-partisan in politics and is devoted to the advancing of the material and civic interests of the community and to bearing its well arranged news mission each week. It has a good circulation and is ably edited and neatly issued, while the job office of the concern is also well equipped and gains an excellent patronage. In his political allegiance Mr. Kenyon is a Republican, and in a fraternal way he is identified with Superior Lodge, No. 179, F. & A. M. On the 19th of July, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kenyon to Miss Helen A. Norton, daughter of Henry W. and Lovisa (Holmes) Norton, of Ann Arbor, Mich. He and his wife are prominent and zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in whose work he is especially active. He is not only steward of the local church but is also serving as district steward, while he has just completed four years of consecutive and efficient service as president of the Williams county Sunday School Association. For six years he was superintendent of the Sunday school of the church in West Unity.

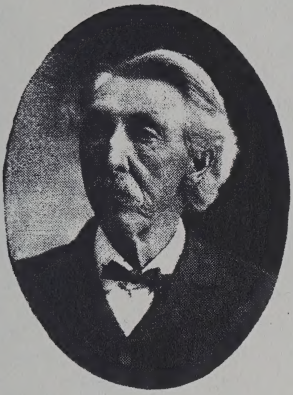
REV. JOHN KIEBEL, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church of Edgerton, Williams county, O., the first church of this denomination to be organized in the county, has been in charge of this parish since 1901. This is Rev. Kiebel's first pastoral charge. He was born in Fostoria, O., February 24, 1877. He was educated at St. Marys, Cincinnati, Mount Calvary, Wis., and Cleveland, O. The priest's residence at Edgerton, built by Father Kiebel, is the finest building in the town and one of the finest in the county. It is equipped throughout with all modern conveniences. By means of a gasoline engine the water is forced through pipes all over the house. The parish numbers eighty-five families, residing in Edgerton and St. Joseph township, and is growing very rapidly. The present church edifice has recently been remodeled, having been built some years ago. The church authorities contemplate building a new church house in the near future, to meet the wants of the rapidly growing congregation. This church is connected with the mission at Blakeslee, seven miles distant. Father Kiebel, by dint of hard, earnest work, and an inexhaustible store of push and enterprise, has done a great work for his parish. Whatever he has undertaken he has brought to full completion. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. The higher church authorities recognize his ability and heartily support him in his endeavors to promote the church work in all of its bearings. It is needless to state that he is popular, not only with his parishioners but also with all other classes of people. Under his able guidance there is a great future before St. Mary's parish.

JOHN MILTON KILLITS, of Bryan, is known as a man of profound erudition and practical ability as a lawyer, and as one who has achieved success in his profession because he has worked for it. His prestige at the bar of Williams county stands as evidence of his ability and likewise serves as voucher for his intrinsic worth of character. He has used his intellect to the best purpose, has directed his energies in legitimate channels, and his career has been based upon the assumption that nothing save industry, perseverance, sturdy integrity and fidelity to duty will lead to success. The profession of law offers no opportunities except to such determined spirits. It is an arduous, exacting, discouraging vocation to one who is unwilling to subordinate all other interests to its demands, but to the true and earnest devotee it offers a sphere of action whose attractions are unequalled and whose rewards unstinted. From a previously published review the following pertinent information concerning the genealogy and immediate family of Mr. Killits is derived: The Killits family is of German origin, the original orthography of the name having been Killitz, and for many generations the representatives of the name made their home near Hamburg, in North Germany. In 1805, John Killitz, grandfather of John M., came to America, being then a young man, and located at Womelsdorf, Berks county, Pa., where he married and established his permanent home, becoming state armorer for Pennsylvania. This position he held for many years prior to his death, which occurred in 1847, from violence, his murderer robbing him and throwing his lifeless body into the Susquehanna river, from which it was not recovered for some time. His widow died in 1849 and the remains of both were interred in the cemetery at Womelsdorf. They had seven children, of whom the youngest was Andrew Welser Killits, father of the subject of this sketch. Andrew Welser Killits was born in 1836, in Berks county, Pa., where he attended school and later found employment in a cigar factory. In 1855, when about nineteen years of age, he came to Ohio and located in Lithopolis, Fairfield county, where he was employed in a dry goods store until 1861, having married in the meanwhile. In the year mentioned he removed to Findlay, Hancock county, and in the following year he established himself in the dry goods business in Kalida, which was then the county seat of Putnam county. In 1867 he located in Bryan, where he was engaged in the same line of enterprise for the ensuing fourteen years, after which he was identified with agricultural pursuits in this county about nine years. In 1890 he removed to the city of Chicago, where he has since maintained his home. He served for a time as superintendent of the Illinois industrial home for the blind. In Lithopolis, O., he married Miss Clarissa Crumley, a daughter of Daniel and Jane (Betser) Crumley, the former of whom served many years as justice of the peace in Fairfield county, where he was a substantial farmer. The Crumley family originated in the kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, whence came the original American ancestors to Pennsylvania in the Colonial era of our national history. Andrew W. and Clarissa (Crumley) Killits have five sons, all of whom reside in Chicago except John M., subject of this sketch, who is the eldest. John Milton Killits was born in Lithopolis, Fairfield county, O., on the 7th of October, 1858, and his early educational discipline was secured in the public schools, while at the age of sixteen years he entered the preparatory department of Oberlin College, at Oberlin, O. A year later, in 1876, he was matriculated in historic old Williams College, at Williamstown, Mass., in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1880, with high rank, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in 1887 the degree of Master of Arts from the same college. In the year of his graduation he located in Red Oak, Iowa, where he purchased the plant and business of the Red Oak Express, and successfully published a weekly and daily newspaper there for the ensuing three years, supporting the Republican party and making his publications a power in that section. His determination to enter the legal profession led him to close out his newspaper interests and return to Bryan in 1883. Here he secured as his professional preceptors the firm of Pratt & Bentley. In March of the following year he was appointed to a clerkship in the war department in Washington, D. C., retaining this incumbency until October 31, 1887, when he resigned. In the meanwhile he had availed himself of the unequalled advantages offered in the national capital to the student of law, and completed a course in the law school of Columbian University, now George Washington University, in which he was graduated in 1885, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. To further fortify himself in the learning of his profession he took a post-graduate course in the same institution, receiving the degree of LL. M., and in 1886 he was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia. After resigning his position in the war department he reurned to Ohio, in whose capital city he was admitted to the bar in December, 1887, to practice before the supreme court of the state. On the first of the following February he opened an office in Bryan, which city has since been the scene of his very successful and noteworthy professional career, his clientage having been of a representative character, while he has been concerned in much of the important litigation in the local and Federal courts. His knowledge of the law is particularly broad and accurate, and his alertness of intellectuality enables him to have ready recourse and practical application in the trial of causes; and he never goes into court unprepared, always canvassing his case carefully in all its relations before presenting the same. He is thus to be designated as one of the strongest trial lawyers of the Williams county bar, while his strength as a counsellor is tantamount. In 1892 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of prosecuting attorney, being elected by a majority of only fifty-one votes, but so excellent a record did he make as public prosecutor that he was returned to the office in 1895, as his own successor, with the most significant and gratifying majority of eleven hundred and twenty-five votes. In 1901 Mr. Killits was nominated as the Republican candidate for common pleas judge in the old sub-division of Williams, Defiance and Paulding counties, and was defeated by thirty-four votes, although the sub-division at the previous judicial election had given 1,500 Democratic majority. In 1904 he was elected common pleas judge for the new sib-division, consisting of Fulton, Williams, Defiance, Paulding and Van Wert counties, by nearly 4,800 majority, running ahead of the Presidential ticket. His vote, 4,050, and his majority, 1,415, in Williams county, was the largest ever given here to a candidate for any office. Mr. Killits has been a most ardent and uncompromising advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and is one of the leaders in its local ranks. He is affiliated with the lodge, chapter and commandery bodies of the Masonic fraternity, and also with the Knights of Pythias, and is popular in professional, business and social circles in his home city. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist church. In 1887 Mr. Killits was united in marriage to Miss Alice N. Stuart, of Washington, D. C. She was born in 1863, near Corpus Christi, Tex., being a daughter of Captain Alexander S. and Emily (Nourse) Stuart, the former a descendant of the famous Stuart family of Scotland, whence the original American ancestors came in the early Colonial days, settling in Maryland, while the American branch has been distinguished for military valor, representatives having served in the war of the Revolution, the war of 1812, the Mexican war and in both the Northern and Southern armies during the Civil war. Captain Stuart himself was an officer in the Confederate army. He was extensively engaged in the raising of cattle and horses in Texas, and while attending to his ranches in the Lone Star state he was robbed and murdered by Mexican bandits. Mr. and Mrs. Killits have two children: Alice Milton, born March 28, 1888; and Edith Stuart, born December 4, 1891.

IRVIN D. KINTIGH is one of the progressive young farmers of Northwest township and is a representative of one of the well-known pioneer families of this section of the Buckeye State. He was born on the homestead farm, in Northwest township, this county, on the 31st of December, 1880, and is a son of Isaac and Rebecca (Beaver) Kintigh, residents of Northwest township. The former was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., on the 10th of April, 1831, being a son of Jacob and Margaret (Kent) Kintigh, who likewise were born in the old Keystone State, whence Jacob removed with his family to Ohio in 1834, first settling in Defiance county, and in 1852 taking up his residence on a tract of wild land in Northwest township, Williams county, where he developed a good farm, continuing his residence in Northwest township until his death, which occurred in April, 1881. Jacob Kintigh's first wife died in this county and he later married Miss Elizabeth Kent, who also was born in Pennsylvania, and died in Williams county, on the 27th of February, 1892. Six children were born of the first marriage, namely: Isaac, Cyrus, Mary Ann, George, Sarah and Hannah M., and one son, John W., represented the offspring of the second union. Isaac Kintigh is one of the progressive farmers and honored citizens of Northwest township, and he continues to reside on the old homestead which has been his home for fifty-three years. In politics he is a conservative Republican, and his religious faith is that of the Church of God. He has been twice married, his first wife having died in 1862, after which he wedded Miss Rebecca Beaver, of Hillsdale county, Mich. Of his eight children by his second wife, five are living, namely: Elsie, Ida, George, Irvin D., and Vincent. The children who were born of the first marriage were Emily Ann and Sarah Jane, the latter being deceased. Irvin D. Kintigh was reared on the home farm and was afforded the advantages of the public schools of his native county, and he has been identified with agricultural pursuits during the major portion of his adult life, though for eight years he operated a threshing outfit, making the enterprise a prosperous one. His present farm comprises eighty acres and is well improved, being eligibly located in Sections 13 and 18, Northwest township. In politics he is arrayed with the stanch advocates of the principles of the Republican party, taking a proper interest in the public affairs of his township and county, but never having been ambitious for office of any sort. October 26, 1903, he was married to Miss Pearl Beach, daughter of Remus O. and Rebecca (Haughey) Beach, of Northwest township, and they have two children.

JOHN W. KINTIGH, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Northwest township, is a native of the township where he resides, in Williams county, O., and was born June 5, 1852. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kent) Kintigh, mentioned in the foregoing review. John W. Kintigh was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his home county. In addition to farming he has been at times successfully engaged in the mercantile business. He is the owner of one hundred and two acres of the homestead, and with his son-in-law, Orlo K. Coolman, the joint owner of another tract of twenty-two acres. In the breeding of fine stock he has been quite successful. In public affairs he takes a deep interest and has served as township trustee six years, assessor three years, land appraiser one year, and is now a member of the school board. In politics he is a Republican. On November 2, 1873, he was wedded to Miss Rosa E. Burk, a native of Camden, Mich., born on January 19, 1854, the daughter of Isaiah and Harriet (Johnson) Burk, the latter a daughter of George Johnson, a pioneer of Steuben county, Ind. To the marriage of John W. Kintigh and wife there has been born one daughter, Nora D., educated in the common schools and the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana. In 1895 she was married to Orlo K. Coolman, and by him has given birth to the following children: Lisle J., born March 23, 1896; Laurence, born October 13, 1897; and Mildred Blanche, born August 23, 1902. Orlo K. Coolman was born in Northwest township on October 24, 1875. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Musser) Coolman, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. Coolman is a farmer, an Independent in politics and has served his community in the capacity of school director.

EPHRAIM KISSELL, of West Unity, is one of the well-known and honored citizens of Williams county, where he has maintained his home since 1872, while for fourteen years he was engaged in the hotel business in West Unity, where he still owns the valuable property known as the Kissell Hotel, as well as his pleasant residence, adjoining the hotel. He is now living practically retired, though maintaining a general supervision of his various capitalistic interests. Mr. Kissell was born in Franklin county, Pa., on the 15th of September, 1838. His father, Jeremiah Kissell, was born in Franklin county, Pa., on the 1st of January, 1819, and his death occurred on his birthday anniversary of 1897. He was a son of John B. Kissell, who likewise was born in Franklin county, Pa., whence he came with his family to Franklin county, O., in 1844. In 1857 John B. Kissell removed to Indianapolis, Ind., where he died in the following year, while his wife died in Putnam county, O., in 1872. Jeremiah Kissell chose as his companion on the journey of life Miss Anna Bowman, who proved a devoted wife and helpmeet. She was born in Franklin county, Pa., in 1805, and her death occurred in 1883. She was a daughter of Jacob Bowman, who was born in Lancaster county, Pa., and who died in Franklin county, that State, which facts were likewise true of his wife, whose maiden name was Leyman. Ephraim Kissell was reared to manhood in Franklin county, O., where his father was a farmer by vocation, and his scholastic advantages were limited to those afforded in the somewhat primitive schools of the pioneer days. He continued to be identified with the agricultural industry in Franklin county until 1864, when he removed to Putnam county, where he followed the same calling until 1872, when he came to Williams county and settled on a farm in Brady township, where he was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1886, when he sold his farm and came to West Unity, where he purchased the McIntyre hotel (since known as the Kissell hotel), and he personally conducted this place for the ensuing fourteen years, bringing it into high popularity with the traveling public and the local trade; but he has since leased the property, which is still kept up to a high standard. As before stated he owns a fine residence here besides the hotel property. In politics Mr. Kissell has ever been found stanchly arrayed as a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, though he has never been an aspirant for public office of any sort. He and his wife are consistent and valued members of the Reformed church. In 1865 Mr. Kissell was united in marriage to Miss Julia Metzler, who was born in Hocking county, O., on the 27th of August, 1842, being a daughter of Abram and Margaret (Markle) Metzler, the former of whom was born in York county, Pa., in 1814, while the latter was born in Pickaway county, O., in 1816. The father made the trip on foot from Pennsylvania to Ohio in an early day, locating in Pickaway county, whence he and his wife removed to Hocking county, and in 1844 they came to Williams county, where both passed the remainder of their lives, both dying in the year 1891, the former in April and the latter in August. Abram Metzler was a son of Jonas and Elizabeth (Stambaugh) Metzler, the former of whom died in York county, Pa., in 1833, while his wife died in Coffee county, Kan., about 1895, at the venerable age of ninety-five years. Margaret (Markle) Metzler was a daughter of Abraham and Maria (Stumpf) Markle, both of whom were born in Berks county, Pa., the former dying in Pickaway county, O., in 1845, while his wife, who was born May 4, 1789, survived him by several years. Mr. and Mrs. Kissell became the parents of four children: Albert Eugene, born July 19, 1866, in Allen county, O., and at present is engaged in the United States mail service at Toledo, O.; Jeremiah W.; Anna L., born in Allen county, O., February 10, 1870, and is the wife of W. C. Ayers, a prominent merchant of West Unity, and Bertha D., born in Williams county, O., on October 22, 1878, and died on January 19, 1885. Jeremiah W. Kissell, who is now conducting the leading barber shop in West Unity, was born in Allen county, O., March 4, 1868, and completed a course in the West Unity high school, remaining on the farm with his father until he had attained to the age of seventeen years, after which he was with his father in the hotel for a time, and then passed five years in the employ of F. L. Felger, in the piano and organ business. In 1891 he engaged in the barbering business in West Unity, where he has since followed his trade. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as village clerk. In a fraternal way he is affiliated with Evergreen Lodge, No. 637, Knights of Pythias. December 27, 1899, he married Miss Gertrude L. Coslet, daughter of Judge William C. Coslet, of West Unity, and they have one child, Carter Coslet, born March 20, 1902.



ALLEN T. KNEPPER.

ALLEN TOWNSEND KNEPPER, a progressive and thrifty farmer of Center township, Williams county, O., is a native of Columbiana county, of that state, where he was born January 12, 1843. His parents were Jacob and Mary (Morgan) Knepper, the former a native of Washington county, Pa., and the latter was born near New Lisbon, O. Jacob Knepper is the son of John Knepper and wife, who were pioneer settlers of Ohio, where both are buried. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was John Morgan. Jacob Knepper was reared on a farm and received a fair education in both English and German in the common schools. While he was a shoemaker by trade he also followed farming. In 1852 he removed to Superior township, Williams county, and located on and cleared a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. At that time game was still quite plentiful, especially deer and turkeys. In politics he was a Democrat until the organization of the Republican party, when he cast his lot with that party. In religious matters he was identified with the Presbyterian church and his wife with the Christian church. He died at the homestead in 1876. To him and wife were born seven children, of whom only three are now living. Allen Townsend Knepper grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in part in a select school in Williams Center, O. After quitting school he was engaged for several years in teaching school. He is now engaged in general farming, being the owner of one hundred and five acres of very fertile and valuable land, on which he has resided for the last twenty-two years. From 1893 to 1898 he was an employee of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company. He and wife are active members of the Christian church, of which organization he has been an elder for over thirty years. In 1869 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Dodge, a native of New York, the daughter of Joel P. and Mary E. (Vincent) Dodge, both natives of New York, who first came to Lorain county, O., and in 1853 to Williams county, where Mrs. Dodge died on April 12, 1905, in her eighty-fifth year. Mr. Dodge continues in fair health at the age of eighty-five. He is a blacksmith and wagonmaker by trade

MARY E. KNEPPER.

and with his wife was a member of the Christian church. They had five children, of whom three are still living. To Allen T. Knepper and wife have been born nine children, all living. They are: Holly Palmer, Maggie Emma, Dora May, Blanch Evaline, Giles Allen, Charles Alsinos, George Adelbert, Edwin Garfield and Vern Cullen. The children are all actively employed in their various vocations and each child seems a source of pride to the venerable parents who have so nobly reared them. It is to be hoped that the kindred who may read this in years to come will give due credit to these honorable pioneers, when forming a true conception of the trials and hardships incident to the making of the home and the rearing of this large family.

BENJAMIN F. KNIFFIN, who is now living practically retired in the attractive little city of Stryker, is one of the substantial capitalists and extensive landholders of Williams county, and is one of those strong and valiant men to whom success came as the prerogative resulting from initiative energy and good judgment, since his marked prosperity represents the diametrical result of his own efforts and thus redounds the more to his honor. Mr. Kniffin was born in Huron county, O., on the 13th of April, 1825, and is a son of Benjamin and Bloomy C. (Hobby) Kniffin, the former of whom was born in Westchester county, N. Y., while the latter was a native of Connecticut. Benjamin Kniffin was a son of James and Sarah Kniffin, who were born in Westchester county, N. Y., of English extraction, both families having been early founded in America. Benjamin came to Ohio in 1827 and located in Huron county, being the third white man to locate in that county, and being one of the earliest settlers of that section of the State, and having been one of the influential men of the locality during the period of his residence there. He took up his abode on an old Revolutionary claim in Greenwich township, Huron county, O., but later returned to New York State. In 1833, however, he took up his permanent residence upon his claim, where he passed the remainder of his life, being eighty-one years of age at the time of his death, while his devoted wife passed away at the age of seventy-five years. In the early days Mr. Kniffin conducted a general store, doing a very considerable and profitable trading business with the Indians, while he often acted as a peacemaker between them and the white settlers, having had the implicit confidence of the red men who remained in the locality. He was very active in public affairs in the pioneer days and was a man whose name was a synonym of integrity and honor. He served a quarter of a century as justice of the peace, having been a stanch Democrat in his political allegiance, while both he and his wife were birthright members of the noble organization known as the Society of Friends, commonly designated as Quakers. He became the owner of twelve hundred acres of land, much of which he reclaimed to cultivation, and he also handled live stock on an extensive scale for the day. He died on his old homestead, July 8, 1878, the death of his wife having occurred in March, 1874. They became the parents of seven children: Hobby resides in Huron county, and is a successful farmer; Benjamin Franklin is the immediate subject of this sketch; Hannah Maria died unmarried; Charles B. died in Greenwich township, Huron county, having been a farmer; James and Sarah were twins, and both are deceased, the former having been a farmer in Greenwich township, Huron county, and Sarah having been the wife of Harvey Critzer, of the same township; Josephine became the wife of Dr. Ingersoll, of Cleveland, O., and both are now deceased. Benjamin F. Kniffin was reared on the homestead farm and was afforded superior advantages in an educational way, considering the locality and period, having duly availed himself of the privileges of the common schools and having supplemented this discipline by a course of study in an academy at Ashland. He continued to remain at the parental home until he had attained his legal majority, and his was the distinction of having been one of the venturesome spirits who crossed the weary stretch of plains to the goldfields of California as argonauts of the memorable year 1849. He was a member of the second train to start forth on the dangerous trip, the party comprising sixteen men, equipped with four teams and wagons. They started from St. Joseph, Mo., where they secured their outfit, and two months were consumed in making the journey. The party arrived in Hangtown, in the northern part of California, and in that locality Mr. Kniffin became associated with a partner in placer mining, also hiring several men, and meeting with fair success in securing the precious metal, while they also operated a train of pack mules between that section and Sacramento. Mr. Kniffin remained in California about eighteen months and then returned home by the way of the Isthmus route, landing in New York city and thence returning to his home in Ohio. Soon after his return to Huron county he engaged in buying stock, which he drove over the Alleghany mountains to the Eastern markets, making the enterprise a profitable one, and continuing to deal in live stock for many years, shipping principally to Buffalo and New York city. He continued to reside in Huron county, engaged in farming and stock dealing, until the close of the Civil war. In April, 1865, he came to Williams county and purchased five hundred acres of land in Springfield township, for a consideration of twelve thousand dollars, and there he continued to reside for seven years, engaged in general farming and stock growing. The next seven years he passed in Stryker, in the meantime continuing his operations in the way of buying and shipping stock, and he then returned to his farm, where he continued to reside until 1893, when he again took up his residence in Stryker, where he has since lived retired, though maintaining a general supervision of his extensive interests. He is the owner of a landed estate of more than a thousand acres in Williams county, the greater portion being under cultivation, while the improvements are of the best type; and he also owns one hundred and eighty-seven acres in Greenwich township, Huron county, six hundred and forty acres in Lynn county, Tex., and a fine residence property in Stryker, besides having other important capitalistic investments. He is a stanch Democrat in politics but has never sought or held office of any description, though never failing to do his part as a public-spirited and progressive citizen. As has been well said of him, "He has made for himself an honorable record, and as a citizen, friend and neighbor he has been true to every duty, thereby winning the high regard of all with whom he has come in contact." In Kalamazoo, Mich., in September, 1859, Mr. Kniffin was married to Miss Margaret E. Popineau, who was born in Zanesville, O., being a daughter of David L. and Jane (Appleman) Popineau, the former of French and the latter of English lineage, and native respectively of Orange county, N. Y., and Harrisburg, Pa. David L. Popineau was reared in his native county, whence he came to Ohio as a young man, first locating at New Lisbon, Columbiana county, where he married Miss Elizabeth Howard. They removed to Richland county, where she died, and he later married Miss Jane Appleman, as already intimated. He resided for a time in Zanesville, and thereafter resided in Indiana, whence he came to Williams county and located in Bryan, in 1883, where he stood high in estimation as a citizen and business man. He died in Bryan, in 1883, at the patriarchal age of ninety years, his second wife passing away in the following year, at the age of seventy-six years. David L. Popineau's paternal ancestors were exceptional in their various vocations and some became prominent in national affairs. His second wife, Jane Appleman, also had some noted ancestors. Her grandmother on her mother's side was a sister to Alexander Hamilton, and she was a first cousin of the late Bishop Harris. Mrs. Kniffin accompanied her sister and brother-in-law, John and Elizabeth Spaulding, to Lawrence, Kan., in 1853, when there were but few white people there. She taught the first white school ever taught in Lawrence, Kan., and she has a vivid recollection of the stormy times incident to the admission of the State. She rang the bell at 4 o'clock to give the alarm to the citizens on the morning of the famous raid and fight. She arose early that morning and started to a near-by spring for a bucket of water, when she spied the raiders. It was understood that if attacked this particular bell should be rung. Hence, she ran to the bell and soon the town was aware of the raid. The object of the raiders was to destroy the abolition printing presses and also the new hotel, named the "Free State Hotel." After accomplishing this they left without molesting anyone further. Mrs. Kniffin returned east from Kansas in 1858, having resided five years in Lawrence. Three children were born of the first union: John, who was a soldier in the civil war, and who now resides in Sturgis, Mich.; William, who met his death in the battle of Gettysburg; and Elizabeth, who is likewise deceased. Of the six children of the second marriage a brief record is as follows: Letitia is deceased; Deborah is the widow of William Jeffards and resides in

La Grange, Ind.; Mary is the wife of Griffith Hall, of Brushy Prairie, La Grange county, Ind.; Margaret is the wife of Mr. Kniffin, of this sketch; Alice is the widow of William Widop, and lives in Noblesville, Ind.; and Amasa is a resident of Marion, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Kniffin became the parents of seven children, of whom Charles and James died in early childhood; Josephine now resides in Toledo, O.; Arminda C. is the wife of George W. Stoffer, a progressive farmer of Springfield township; Benjamin F., Jr., who is likewise a successful farmer of that township, married Miss Unie Bezanson, and they have five children; Harry W. remains at the parental home; and Alta is the wife of David M. Shaler, of Stryker.

CHRISTIAN G. KOERNER, one of the representative farmers of St. Joseph township, where he has a well improved homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, was born in Afalterbach, Wurtemburg, Germany, on the 6th of October, 1840, being a son of John Michael and Catherine (Heisler) Koerner, both of whom died in Germany, the father having passed away in February, 1852, at which time Christian G. was twelve years of age, while the mother had been summoned to the life eternal nine years earlier. In 1854, at the age of thirteen, in company with his younger sister, Caroline, he came to America, two older brothers and a sister having come to this country two years previously. The eldest brother, Gottlieb D., learned that his younger brother and sister were receiving improper treatment at the hands of their guardian in Germany, and he accordingly made a special trip to the Fatherland for the purpose of assuming charge of his orphaned brother and sister, who accompanied him on his return to the United States. Following is a brief record concerning the children of John M. and Catherine (Heisler) Koerner: Gottlieb David, who settled in Milford township, Defiance county, O., and with whom Christian and Caroline for a time made their home, died in 1883; Catherine is the wife of William Hoffman, of Defiance, O.; John F. is a retired farmer of Mount Vernon, Ind.; Christian G. is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Caroline became the wife of Christian Geiger, a prominent manufacturer of Defiance, O., where both died, in the year 1901. Christian G. Koerner, with his brothers and sisters, became a resident of Defiance county, O., soon after coming to America, the older brothers and sisters, who came two years earlier as already noted, having lived for a time in Lenawee county, Mich., Gottlieb and John having removed to Defiance county, O., in 1853, becoming pioneers of that section, where they took up government land in the following year. Gottlieb D. settled on his farm, which he reclaimed from the wilds, and with him Christian made his home for the ensuing six years, within which he supplemented to a degree the educational training which he had secured in his native land. When a young man he was employed for a number of years at railroad work and on the canal extending from Toledo to Defiance and thence to Cincinnati. While working for his brother, John F., who had settled on a farm in Posey county, Ind., he added sufficiently to his savings to feel justified in purchasing a home of his own. In 1865 he located on a farm in Defiance county, O., and by energy and good management succeeded in paying for the property within the ensuing three years. He then disposed of this place and came to Williams county, purchasing the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which constitutes his present homestead, and which has been his place of abode and the scene of his well directed labors for a period of forty years, while he reclaimed a considerable portion of the land from the virgin forest and has made excellent improvements on the place, making it one of the valuable farms of St. Joseph township, where it is eligibly located in the vicinity of the village of Edgerton, which is his postoffice address. Mr. Koerner has been in a significant sense the architect of his own fortune, and his position is one of independence and definite prosperity, while he has so ordered his life as to command the esteem and confidence of those with whom he has come in contact. In politics, while never a seeker of public office, he gives a stanch allegiance to the Republican party, taking an intelligent interest in the issues and current events of the day, and he and his family are consistent members of the German Methodist church, of which his deceased wife likewise was a devoted member. In 1866 Mr. Koerner was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Rennollet, who was born in Henry county, O., in April, 1845, being a daughter of Paul and Mary Rennollet, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former dying in Paulding county, O., in 1875, while his widow died the following year, in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Koerner. Mrs. Sophia Koerner entered into the life eternal on the 11th of April, 1876. Of the five children of Mr. Koerner four are living: Marie Ada, Bertha Catherine, Florence and William Gottlieb. The third child, Carrie, died in September, 1883.

ELMER KOLLAR, a successful farmer of Florence township, Williams county, O., is the grandson of George and Margaret Kollár, both natives of Tuscarawas county, O., who removed to Williams county in 1852, locating on a farm in Superior township. As the land was heavily timbered, he proceeded at once to clear and improve it. Here both spent the remainder of their days. His maternal grandparents, Frederick and Sarah (Livensperger) Darr, were both natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Williams county in pioneer days and there lived and died. Jacob and Susan (Darr) Kollar, both natives of Pennsylvania, came with their parents to Williams county in an early day. Jacob Kollar grew to manhood on a farm and enjoyed the benefits of a common school education. Having purchased a tract of one hundred acres of timbered land in Florence township, he proceeded at once to clear and improve it. This land has been brought to a high state of cultivation and is equipped with all the necessary buildings that go to make up a first-class farm. In politics he was a Republican, and with his wife a member of the Christian Union church. From February 28th to September 11, 1865, he served as a private in Company C of the One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He died on March 9, 1905, aged sixty-nine years, ten months and eleven days. To these parents the following children were born: Clara, deceased; Elmer; and Orda Ann. Elmer Kollar, the son of Frederick and Sarah Kollar, was born in Florence township on May 25, 1868. He grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district schools. Since the death of his father he has had charge of the homestead, which he is managing with marked success. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, and in religious belief he and his wife are ardent members of the Christian Union church. In 1890 he chose as his helpmeet Miss Effie Hicker of Williams county. To this marriage four children have been born. They are: Zelma Gay, Verah Leona, Jessie May and Delpha Adell.

JOHN E. KREIGER, a prosperous farmer near Melbern, Williams county, O., is a native of Center township of that county, where he was born December 24, 1866. His grandparents were Daniel and Elizabeth (Domer) Kreiger, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former having first removed to Holmes county, O., and in 1842 to Williams county, where he died. His wife, the daughter of Michael Domer, was born in Pennsylvania and died in Williams county in 1875. The maternal grandparents of John E. Kreiger were Samuel and Elizabeth Lint, both natives of Holmes county, O. In 1844 they settled in Center township, where both died, his death occurring in 1897. The parents of Mr. Kreiger are Jacob and Mary (Lint) Kreiger, the former born in Holmes county, O., December 24, 1831, and the latter in the same county June 9, 1841. Jacob Kreiger was educated in the common schools of his home county and chose farming as his life's work. He cleared and improved the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which he now resides, and in 1903 erected a substantial residence on it. When he came to Williams county with his parents deer and wolves were still quite plentiful. In political matters he is affiliated with the Democratic party. To him and wife nine children were born, seven of whom are still living. John E. Kreiger was reared on his father's farm and received a fair education in the common schools of Center township. He is a farmer by occupation and owns a farm of eighty acres of well improved and highly productive land, on which he in 1904 erected a handsome residence. The raising of potatoes is a specialty with him, and on some of his land as many as five hundred bushels to the acre are raised. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party, but in no sense is he an office-seeker. Together with his wife he is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On March 3, 1897, he was united in marriage to Miss Arminta Jordin, a native of Williams county, the daughter of Ellis and Mary (Brown) Jordin, the latter being a daughter of Nicholas Brown, mentioned in this work. Ellis Jordin was a son of John Jordin, an early settler of Wiliams county, who removed to Dakota, where he died in 1895, his widow, Emily (Varnum) Jordin, surviving him. Ellis Jordin was born in Williams county, August 6, 1849, and educated in the common schools. He was a farmer by occupation and a Republican in politics. He died in January, 1896. Ellis Jordin and wife were the parents of two children: John, a farmer of Williams county, and Mrs. Kreiger. Mary (Brown) Jordin died in 1880. To John E. Kreiger and wife two children have been born. They are: Armin Thorp, born January 26, 1899, and Mary Ardilla, born January 19, 1904.

HENRY KRILL, an influential and prosperous merchant of Edgerton, Williams county, O., is a native of Gaudernbach, province of Nassau, Germany. His father, John Krill, emigrated to America in 1869 and located in St. Joseph township, where he died in 1890, aged sixty-seven years. The mother of Henry Krill is still hale and hearty, notwithstanding she is seventy-four years old. Henry Krill was educated in the public schools of Germany, whose system of education is not excelled by that of any other country in the world. In 1875 he entered the employ of J. H. Miller of Edgerton, who was then engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. After having served as an employee for eleven years, he became a partner of Mr. Miller, and in 1891, by buying out his partner, he became sole proprietor of the business, which he has conducted so successfully ever since. His trade is not limited to Williams county, but it extends also to Defiance and the bordering Indiana counties. While busily engaged looking after his mercantile interests he has not neglected public affairs. For two terms he was township treasurer and for the same length of time member of the town council. He has just been re-elected a member of the school board for a term of four years, his sixth term of service on that body. For the past four years he has been treasurer of the school board and he is now its president. In politics he is an active Republican. With the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he is closely identified. Since the organization of the Oak Manufacturing Company he has been one of its stockholders and directors. In religious affairs he and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he being a trustee and class leader in that organization. He married Miss Mary Helmling, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Krall) Helmling, the former a native of Baden and the latter of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. They came from Baden, Germany, in 1850, and located first in New York, coming from thence to Cleveland, O., and thence to Toledo, O., and in 1855 to Edgerton, where he died January 14, 1883. His wife still survives him at the age of eighty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Krill have the following children: Minnie, Oscar, Paul, Edwin, all being still at home. Of Mr. Krill it may truthfully be said that he is an excellent business man and a fine type of the German-American citizen.

HENRY S. KUNKLE, in whose honor the town and postoffice of Kunkle, in Madison township, were named, is one of the most venerable, best known and most highly honored pioneer citizens of Williams county, and the failure to accord him recognition in this publication would be to stultify its consistency. The founding of the Kunkle family in America has historic significance, since three brothers of the name, Jacob, David and John, who were natives of Hesse, Germany, where numbered among the Hessian soldiers whose services were sold by their government to the British to assist in the attempt to suppress the revolution of the American colonies. These three brothers were not of the sort of whom mercenaries are made, not of the sort who would oppose the cause of freedom, and soon after arriving in America and learning that it would be their portion to fight against many of their own countrymen, they deserted from the British army and joined the America forces, with which they rendered valiant service until the close of the great struggle. At the close of the war they located in Berks county, Pa., whence they later removed to Mercer county, becoming sterling citizens of their adopted country, whose cause they had defended and in whose development they aided, and honor, integrity and good citizenship have characterized the name in all succeeding generations. Of these three brothers Jacob was the grandfather of him whose name initiates this paragraph. Henry and Mary (Stone) Kunkle, parents of Henry S., subject of this review, were born in Berks county and Perry county, Pa., respectively, and in the latter county the mother died, having had seven children, of whom Henry S. is now the only survivor. Henry Kunkle later married Catherine Shaffer, who was born in Pennsylvania, and who passed the closing years of her life in Kansas. She became the mother of three sons and one daughter, all of whom are deceased, three sons having served as Union soldiers in the Civil war. Henry Kunkle came to Williams county, O., in 1854, and here continued to reside until his death, in 1871. He was a carpenter by trade, but the major part of his active career was devoted to agricultural pursuits. His religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. Henry S. Kunkle was born in Perry county, Pa., December 23, 1823, and he was but five years of age at the time of his mother's death. Under these unfortunate conditions he was bound out to a farmer of his native county and his boyhood and youth were filled to repletion with arduous toil, while his educational advantages were very meager. In 1843, at the age of twenty years, he started forth, alone and on foot, for Ohio. Of his early experiences the following succinct account has been given and is worthy of reproduction here: "His money was exhausted ere he reached his destination and he was forced to sell his overcoat to pay for a night's lodging. Fortunately, the next day he arrived at the place where his brother was then located, near West Unity, Williams county, and after a short visit he found employment at chopping wood and clearing land, at which he worked by the month for some time. Saving his wages, he was at length able to buy one hundred and sixty acres of heavily timbered land, and on this tract he slashed and deadened forty acres of timber. In 1850 he made the overland trip to California, being six months en route, and after clerking in a store in that State for three months he secured a mining claim, which he at once began to operate. During the two and one-half years he remained on the Pacific slope he was fairly successful, and at the end of that time he returned by water to the East. For the ensuing four months he was engaged in chopping the timber and otherwise working on his land, but in 1853 he returned to California, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and, securing another claim, he engaged in mining for seventeen months, with excellent success. Selling out at an advantage, he returned by way of the Nicaragua route, landed at Norfolk, Va., visited for a time at his old home in Pennsylvania and then returned to his farm in Williams county, O., upon which he then made many substantial improvements, including the erection of a house. In 1856 he returned to Pennsylvania and married the sweetheart of his youth, after which he brought his young bride to his humble home in Williams county, where together they began the struggle of life. She has proved to him a most faithful helpmeet. In the early days she fired log heaps, picked brush, cradled wheat around stumps, gathered sheaves and made garden, besides attending to her domestic duties, thus aiding her husband in every possible way. Success crowned their efforts, and as their financial resources increased they added to their landed possessions from time to time. In connection with farming Mr. Kunkle has also engaged extensively in stock-dealing, and in 1866 he embarked in merchandising at what was then known as Barrett's Corners, where he conducted a general store for eight years. A postoffice had been established by Mr. Barrett, but after Mr. Kunkle purchased the land adjoining and platted the town of Kunkle, the postoffice also was named in his honor. The place is now a prosperous village of several hundred population, and when the line of the Wabash railroad was built through the town, in 1881, Mr. Kunkle gave four acres for the depot and also five hundred dollars in money." It may well be said that no citizen of Madison township has contributed more generously to the development and advancement of local interests than has Mr. Kunkle, who is essentially liberal and public-spirited and whose life has been unblemished, so that he has commanded the unequivocal respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. In political affairs Mr. Kunkle has been a stanch supporter of the principles of the Republican party from the time of its organization, and he has served in various local offices, including that of township trustee, of which he was an incumbent for several years. Both he and his wife are devoted and valued members of the Presbyterian church, in whose work they have been active for many years. After years of earnest toil and endeavor they are living retired in their attractive home, adjoining the village of Kunkle, and in the midst of those who are tried and true friends, so that they find the evening of their lives filled with most gracious associations. On the 7th of February, 1856, Mr. Kunkle was united in marriage to Miss Matilda J. Baltosser, who was born in Perry county, Pa., on the 4th of February, 1833, being a daughter of Daniel and Maria (Long) Baltosser, both of whom were born in Dauphin county, Pa., of German descent. They came to Williams county, O., in 1867, and here the mother died August 28, 1890, aged eighty-one years, while the father passed away on the 28th of the following November, aged eighty-seven years. Of their six children four are living. Mr. and Mrs. Kunkle became the parents of four children: Mary Alice, who remains a member of the home circle; Martha Jane, who married Peter O. Stiving, of Madison township, and died two years later, in February, 1881; John C., who is a representative farmer of Madison township, married Miss Lora Stiving, and they have four children: Henry P., Lauren S., John S., and Lefa G.; Ira H., the youngest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Kunkle, married Miss Arvilla Finnacle. Ira H. died August 24, 1893, leaving one son, Ora.

CHRIST. LANDLE, one of the most prominent German-American citizens of Williams county, O., and now residing on his fine farm, two miles northeast of Edgerton, is a native of Alsace, Germany, where he was born on September 14, 1834. His parents were Philip and Charlotte (Howery) Landle, the former the son of Michael Landle. Philip and Charlotte Landle were married in Alsace, Germany, and in August, 1847, they took passage on a vessel for America. They landed in New York, whence they took a boat for Albany and thence by railroad train to Buffalo and located on a farm six miles north of that city. There both continued to reside until their respective deaths, the wife in 1853 and the husband in 1873. They were both members of the German Lutheran church, and were the parents of ten children, viz: Philip, who resides at Louisville, Ky.; Fred, who died in Buffalo in 1905; Michael, who removed to Williams county and died there in 1899; Christ, the subject of this sketch; Sarah, who married George Haine and resides in Buffalo, N. Y.; Charlotta, who married Peter Rache and resides near Edon; Henry, who died in Buffalo, N. Y.; Lena, who lives in Cincinnati, O.; Jacob, who died at Robison, Ill., in 1893; and the youngest was Sophia, who lives in Cincinnati, O. Christ. Landle was reared in Erie county, N. Y., and received a good education in German. Being reared on a farm he made farming his life work. On March 26, 1860, he married Lena Miller, daughter of Philip and Charlotta Miller. To this union three children were born: Christ; Lena, now the wife of Samuel Burkhart, a prominent farmer of St. Joseph township; and Caroline, the wife of Joseph Yeager, and who resides three miles south of Bryan. The mother having died, Mr. Landle took for his second wife on October 25, 1878, Sarah Miller, daughter of Jacob Miller of DeKalb county, Ind. To this last union three children were born, Allie, Eva and Fred. Mr. Landle is a member of the German Lutheran and Mrs. Landle of the Methodist church. Mr. Landle is spending his declining years on his beautiful farm of 120 acres. It is equipped with a fine brick residence, a new barn and other necessary buildings. He is a stanch Democrat in politics and one of Williams county's most respected citizens.

THERON LANDON was one of the worthy pioneers and prominent citizens of Millcreek township, having been identified with various lines of business enterprise and having been signally true and loyal in all the relations of life; so that it is fitting that a tribute to his memory be incorporated in this publication. Mr. Landon came of stanch New England stock, the family having been established in America in the early Colonial days. He was born in Litchfield county, Conn., on the 21st of May, 1814, and in that State he was reared and educated, having been but nine years of age at the time of the death of his father, Horace Landon. In November, 1835, he came to the west, first locating in Washtenaw county, Mich., where the city of Ann Arbor now stands, where he remained about one year. He then came to Williams county, O., and settled in Millcreek township, this section being at that time little more than a virgin forest. He was a man of great energy and of progressive ideas, soon becoming influential in local affairs and contributing largely to the material and civic advancement of the community. For a number of years he conducted a general store in Hamer, where he served several years as postmaster. He also bought and sold farm produce, owned and operated a farm and was identified with other business enterprises. He retired from active business in 1860, but during the Civil war he rendered effective service for some time in the quartermaster's department. His son Henry was a member of Company C, One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died in a hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn., from the effects of a gunshot wound received in action, at Dallas, Ga. In politics Mr. Landon was identified with the Republican party, and he served a number of years in the office of justice of the peace. He was summoned to the life eternal on the 25th of March, 1879, secure in the esteem of all who had known him and crowned with years of honor and usefulness. Mr. Landon was twice married, the maiden name of his first wife having been Harriet Bates. She was born in Canada and her death occurred in 1862. Nine children were born of this union and all are now deceased except Theron, who resides in Missouri. The names of the children are here entered in order of birth: Lucy, Malinda, Elizabeth, Henry, Horace, Theron, Joseph, and twins who died in infancy. For his second wife Mr. Landon married Miss Mary Miller, who was born in Richland county, O., on April 9, 1848, being a daughter of Adam D. Miller, who removed thence to Williams county in 1848, when she was three months old. Mrs. Landon survives her husband and resides with her son and daughter near Alvordton, where they have a pleasant home. She became the mother of three children, namely: Martha, who is the wife of Isaac H. Page, of West Unity, this county; Anna R., and Nathan T., who remain with their mother on the homestead, one and one-half miles south of Alvordton. This is the same home that Mr. Landon entered as wild land in November, 1835, and had to cut a road through the forest for twenty-seven miles to reach it with a team.

WILLIAM H. LASER is one of the successful farmers of Brady township and also owns and operates a fine threshing outfit, which is in requisition over a wide section of country during the successive seasons. He was born in Richland county, O., August 11, 1844, and is a son of Gideon and Margaret (Ghullshaw) Laser, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, of stanch German lineage. When Gideon Laser was twelve years of age his father, Abram Laser, removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Richland county, O., where he passed the remainder of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits. In that county Gideon was reared to manhood and there his marriage was solemnized. On the 4th of April, 1867, he removed with his family to Williams county and secured a farm of eighty acres, in Brady township, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, being held in high esteem by all who knew them and both being members of the German Reformed church, while in politics he was a stanch Democrat. Of their ten children eight are still living, the family being well and favorably known in Williams county. William H. Laser was reared to maturity in Richland county, in whose common schools he secured his educational discipline. He was about twenty-three years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, and here he has given consecutive allegiance to the agricultural industry, in connection with which he has gained a distinctive success and precedence. For nineteen seasons he has operated a threshing outfit, and he is known as a reliable and straightforward business man and public-spirited citizen. His attractive farm comprises one hundred and seventy-seven and one half acres, is under a high state of cultivation and is devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of live stock of good grade. The buildings are of substantial order, including the fine modern residence, which Mr. Laser erected in 1904. In politics Mr. Laser is an adherent of the Democratic party and he manifests a loyal concern in local affairs of a public nature, though never an aspirant for office. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Miss Arabella Bly, who was born in West Virginia, being a daughter of Henry Bly, who came to Williams county in 1878, settling on a farm in Jefferson township, where both he and his wife died. They became the parents of twelve daughters and four sons, and of the number eight are living. Mr. and Mrs. Laser have had three children: Jennie and Charles, who remain at the parental home, and Cora, who died at the age of nineteen years.

CLEM VICTOR LASH, manager of the family homestead in Florence township, Williams county, O., was born there on November 15, 1863. His great grandfather, David Lash, a native of Germany, emigrated to the United States and located in Pennsylvania in pioneer days, and there spent the remainder of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits. Henry S. and Nancy (Craven) Lash, his grand-parents, were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born on February 11, 1801, and the latter on November 3, 1802. Henry S. Lash was a pioneer settler of Wayne county, O., where he entered, cleared and cultivated a farm of considerable size, and died there on January 29, 1882. His wife was the daughter of James Craven, and spent her declining years in Wayne county, where she died on September 1, 1870. To these parents the folowing children were born: David, born April 17, 1822; James, born January 1, 1824; William, born November 19, 1825; Samuel, born October 10, 1827; John, born December 29, 1832; Elizabeth Ann, born September 24, 1836; Henry S., born May 9, 1838, and Sarah J., born December 14, 1839. Of these children there are now living, James, William and Elizabeth Ann. Clem V. Lash is the son of James and Julia A. (Davis) Lash, the former born in Pennsylvania on January 1, 1824, and the latter near West Lebanon, Wayne county, O., on September 2, 1826. Prior to her marriage to James Lash, in 1850, Mrs. Lash had married David R. Kraine, by whom she had one son. James Lash came to Williams county from his native State and located on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Florence township, of which he is still the owner. The land being heavily wooded he proceeded at once to clear and improve it. The buildings erected on it are of a substantial character. In addition to this farm he owns valuable property in Edon, where his wife died on January 13, 1899. Believing it to be the duty of every citizen to look carefully after public affairs, he has served in the capacity of township trustee and assessor. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, his deceased wife being also a member of the same religious organization. To James Lash and wife the following children were born, all still living: Ann Jane, born in Wayne county, O., on July 19, 1851; James Elmer, born September 28, 1853; Olive, born July 13, 1858; Calvin L., born July 4, 1861; Clem Victor, the subject of this sketch, who was born November 15, 1863, and Edith, born June 27, 1866. Clem Victor Lash grew to manhood on the parental farm and was educated in the district schools. With the exception of the four years, during which he served as deputy for Sheriff M. W. Burgoyne, he has always lived on the home farm, of which he is now manager. General farming and stock raising command all of his time and attention, and it is needless to state that he is meeting with unusual success in both. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party. On November 12, 1891, he was wedded to Miss Clara Simmons, a native of Bryan, who died August 15, 1899. His second wife, whom he married September 21, 1901, was Miss M. Isora Toner of Edon, O., the daughter of John M. and Elnora (Matthews) Toner, old and respected residents of Edon. Mrs. Lash is a devout member of the Church of Christ.

CASSIUS CLYDE LATTANNER merits recognition in this compilation by reason of his status as one of the leading business men and most public-spirited citizens of the attractive town of Montpelier, as well as on the score of being a native of Williams county and a representative of one of its well-known and honored families. He was born in Montpelier, September 23, 1868, and is a son of Adam and Mary Katherine (Gilbert) Lattanner, the former of whom was born in Williams county and the latter in Richland county. The father made Williams county his home throughout life, having been of German descent, while his wife's parents came to Ohio from the State of New York. Adam Lattanner was for many years engaged in the hotel business in Montpelier, and he was also interested in milling, farming and other lines of enterprise, having been one of the well-known and extremely popular citizens of the county. August 26, 1861, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a member of Company A, Thirty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for a term of three years, at the expiration of which he received his honorable discharge, having made a gallant record as a loyal and faithful soldier of the Republic. The principal engagements in which he took part were the following: Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Atlanta, Utoy Creek, Jonesboro, Perryville and Stone River. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his political support was given to the Democratic party. He died, December 28, 1895, at the age of fifty-eight years, and his widow still resides in Montpelier, Cassius C. having been their only child. The latter secured his educational discipline in the public schools of Montpelier, and then learned the art of telegraphy, after which he was employed five years as operator and station agent of the Wabash railroad at Montpelier. He then engaged in the shoe business in Montpelier, where he has since continued in this line of enterprise, having a finely equipped store and controlling a large and representative trade. He takes an advanced position in the matter of lending his influence and co-operation in furthering local interests and is essentially one of the most public-spirited citizens of his attractive home city. He is secretary of the Board of Public Affairs of Montpelier; is secretary and manager of the Montpelier Telephone Company, of which he was the organizer; and is secretary of the Williams County Agricultural Society. In politics Mr. Lattanner is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic order, having been master of Montpelier Lodge, No. 547, Free and Accepted Masons, for the long period of nine years. June 5, 1894, Mr. Lattanner was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Marie Lightfoot, daughter of John J. and Lucy H. Lightfoot, now residents of Terrace Heights, Washington, D. C. Mr. and Mrs. Lattanner have two children, Adam Jerome and Helen Katherine.

MURVIN A. LEES, a well-to-do farmer and highly respected citizen of Florence township, Williams county, O., is the son of Hugh and Nancy (Heller) Lees, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. His maternal grandfather came from Pennsylvania to Steuben county, Ind., in an early day, and there spent the rest of his days. While living in Ireland, Hugh Lees married Catherine Delarga, and by her had four children, three of whom are still living. Early in 1842 he emigrated to the United States, landing at New York City. After working at the shoemaker trade in Whitehall, N. Y., for two years, he came to Williams county and settled on a farm of two hundred acres in Florence township. As this land was heavily wooded, he proceeded at once to clear it. When he died he had brought the land to a high state of cultivation and had equipped it with all the buildings necessary to a well-conducted farm. While a shoemaker and weaver by trade, he followed farming after he came to Williams county. He was a stanch Democrat in politics and took a deep interest in public affairs. In religious matters he was identified with the Presbyterian church. After the death of his first wife, in 1872, he married Miss Nancy Heller, a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died on the home farm on January 8, 1891, highly esteemed by all who knew him. Murvin A. Lees was reared on the paternal homestead and educated in the comon schools of his native county. He is a farmer by occupation and owns eighty acres of the home farm. This land is very fertile and equipped with substantial buildings. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party, having served for six years as township trustee. On January 28, 1883, he was wedded to Miss Hannah Fetters, the daughter of Samuel Fetters, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They are the parents of the following childern, Beulah, Florence, Howard and Fay.

JOHN V. LESNET, M. D., a representative physician and surgeon of Montpelier, Williams county, O., is engaged in the practice of his profession in Montpelier, where he has been thus established for nearly a score of years, having been eminently successful in the work of his chosen calling. John Vance Lesnet was born near Dungannon, Columbiana county, O., on the 10th of March, 1846, and in the agnatic line he is of stanch German descent. His great-grandfather, Christian Lesnet, was born in Hessen Castle, Germany, whence he came to America in 1752, locating in the city of Baltimore, Md., and his death occurred in 1804, at which time he was seventy-six years of age. Concerning his children the following data are given: Nancy first married John Vance, and after the latter's death became the wife of James Morrow; Frederick married Isabella Wilson; Frank married Rachel Kettler; Sophia became the wife of William Rowley; Margaret married Richard Boyce; Christian was shot and killed by an Indian; Christopher, who married Barby Elliott, was the grandfather of the Doctor; Christena married John Neale; and George, who was a bachelor at time of death, is buried in the cemetery at Lisbon, O. Christopher Lesnet removed from Maryland to Pennsylvania, where he presumably followed farming, and later came to Columbiana county, O., where he and his good wife passed the remainder of their lives, having been pioneers of that county, where he reclaimed a farm in the forest. Their nine children were as follows: John, Richard, Shirley, James, Frank, Elizabeth, Rachel, Vance and Eliza. Vance Lesnet, father of the subject of this review, came with his parents to Columbiana county when a child, and in that section he was engaged in farming until 1848, when he came to Williams county and located in Superior township, where his death occurred on the 11th of August, 1850. He married Miss Jane Brannan, who was born in Ireland, whence her parents immigrated to America when she was six years of age. She died in 1860. Following is a brief record concerning the children of Vance and Jane (Brannan) Lesnet: Margaret, born August 27, 1834, and died in September, 1894; William, born July 7, 1836, died July 26, of the same year; Milton, born November 16, 1837, died in February, 1902; Elizabeth, born October 30, 1840, died in 1864; Christopher, born November 9, 1842, died September 20, 1859; John Vance is the immediate subject of this review, and Hugh, born December 6, 1849, is a resident of New Mexico. John Vance Lesnet was about two years of age at the time of his parents' removal from Columbiana county to Williams county, in which latter he was reared to maturity, having been afforded the advantages of the common schools and the normal school in Bryan. He learned the trade of carpenter, to which he devoted his attention for five years, while he was also a successful teacher in the public schools of the county. He began the study of medicine in the office of Drs. Long & Riggs, at Bryan, and prosecuted his technical reading under these able preceptors until 1876, when he entered Worcester Medical College, in the city of Cleveland, which is now known as the Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons and is the medical department of the Ohio Wesleyan University, located in the city of Delaware. He was graduated in 1880 and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine. In the same year he engaged in the practice of his profession at Brunersburg, Defiance county, where he met with gratifying success. He remained there until 1886, when he came to Montpelier, in which broader field he has gained much prestige and become numbered among the most successful and honored physicians and surgeons of the country. He is a member of the Tri-State Medical Society and is at the present time health officer of Montpelier, while he has been continuously a member of the board of examining surgeons for pensions for Williams county since the administration of President Harrison, when he received his initial appointment, excepting the four years of Cleveland's second administration. The Doctor is one of the stalwarts in the camp of the Republican party, and is a member of the county central committee. In 1881 Dr. Lesnet was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth S. Reid, daughter of George and Jane (Rudisil) Reid, of Bryan, and they became the parents of two daughters, of whom the elder, Ivy June, died at the age of seventeen years, while the younger, Bessie L., still remains at the parental home, being one of the popular young ladies of the city.

WHALON LINDSAY, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Bridgewater township, Williams county, O., was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., August 15, 1822. He is the son of Francis W. and Polly (Adams) Lindsay, the former a native of Essex county, Vt., and the latter of Essex county, N. Y. Francis Lindsay removed from his native state to Calhoun county, Mich., in June, 1837, and three years later to Williams county, O., where he and his wife spent the rest of their days. He was a hard working, industrious man, and cleared much of the extensive tract of land that he owned. In politics he was first a Whig and later a Democrat. The office of trustee, as well as other minor township offices, was acceptably filled by him. He died on April 15, 1859, and was survived by his widow until February 12, 1871. They were the parents of the following children: Whalon; George, deceased; Cyrena, deceased, a native of Essex county, N. Y., and the late wife of Simon Waterston, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Mary Ann, a native of Calhoun county, Mich., who became the wife of Robert Boyce on January 1, 1860, and by him had the following children: Infant, deceased; Arthur, deceased; Celia, the wife of Webster Wert and the mother of three children, Ethel, Ida and Nettie; infant, deceased, and Adda, deceased; and Jane, a native of Williams county, where she was born June 24, 1844. Whalon Lindsay grew to manhood on his father's farm and received such an education as the common schools of that day afforded. He is a very successful farmer and stock-raiser. In politics he is identified with the Republican party. For seventeen years he has satisfactorily filled the important office of township assessor. In religious matters he is affiliated with the Church of God. In 1854 he was wedded to Miss Julia E. Sumner, of Essex county, N. Y., and by her has had one son, who died in infancy.

COURTLAND C. LLOYD is one of the popular and progressive young agriculturists of Jefferson township, and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Williams county. He was born on the ancestral homestead, in Center township, this county, on the 6th of November, 1874, and is a son of David and Sophia (Snyder) Lloyd, the former of whom was born in the State of Vermont, the Lloyd family being of Welsh extraction and having been founded in New England in the Colonial epoch. David Lloyd first married Miss Emily Welch, likewise a native of Vermont, and she died in Williams county, O., having become the mother of four children, namely: Mary, who is the widow of William Morris and resides in Gladwin county, Mich.; Frank, who is deceased; Alice, who is the wife of Daniel Ridenour, of Defiance county, O., and Emma, who likewise resides in Defiance county. Martin Lloyd, father of David, came from Vermont to Ohio in an early day and settled in Center township, Williams county, being one of the pioneers of that section, where he passed the remainder of his life. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. David Lloyd came to the county about 1842 and lived on the old homestead farm until his death, which occurred in 1898. He was one of the representative farmers of the county, was a Democrat in his political allegiance and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow, who still lives on the home farm, which comprises one hundred and eight acres. David and Sophia (Snyder) Lloyd became the parents of two children, of whom the subject of this review is the elder. His sister, Edith, is the wife of Edward Harold, and they reside on the old Lloyd homestead, in Center township. Courtland C. Lloyd received a good public school education and remained on the home farm until 1891, when he purchased his present fine farm property, in Jefferson township, the same comprising eighty acres. The land was wild and rough at the time when he took possession, but he has developed the same into one of the valuable and attractive farmsteads of the county, having cleared all but five acres. He has secured from the place five thousand five hundred cords of wood, besides timber for manufacturing. The farm is under effective cultivation and the owner also has been very successful in the raising of live stock, including cattle, horses and mules. In politics Mr. Lloyd is a stanch Republican and he has shown a lively interest in public affairs of a local nature. In the autumn of 1904 he was elected clerk of Jefferson township, being also clerk of the school board, while he made an honorable and almost successful race for the nomination on the Republican ticket for county clerk, in 1905. He is affiliated with Fountain City Lodge, No. 113, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in Bryan. October 22, 1899, Mr. Lloyd was united in marriage to Miss Edna Wilson, who was born in St. Joseph township, this county, being a daughter of Philander E. and Fanny M. (Hopkins) Wilson, likewise natives of Williams county. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd have an adopted son, Russell.

GEORGE LOCKHART, a successful and highly respected farmer of Pulaski township, Williams county, O., is a native of Ohio, having been born in Ashland county, July 5, 1829. He is the son of William and Jane (McCartney) Lockhart, the former a native of Washington county, Pa., and the latter of Columbiana county, O. About the year 1823 William Lockhart removed to Richland county, O., where he was married and where he located and cleared a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Later he removed to Williams county, where he died in 1880, and was survived by his widow, who died in Pulaski, O., in 1891. His early occupation, besides farming, consisted in teaming from Ashland to Pittsburg, Pa. In politics he was a Democrat and in religious views a Presbyterian. To these parents there were born thirteen children, six of whom died when young. The names of those who reached mature life, follow: Nancy, the wife of Ephram Reid of Pulaski, O.; John, a resident of Holland, Mich.; Hiram, who died in Kansas; George, the subject of this sketch; Jefferson, of Kansas City, Mo.; Louisa, deceased; and Lewis Oliver, of Montpelier, O. George Lockhart received only a limited education in the private schools of his locality and remained with his parents until he was twenty-three years old. In 1852 he, with a party of fourteen others, driving three teams and a buggy, made the overland trip to California. Starting from Ashland on March 17, they first went to Wellsville, O., from there down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to Independence, Mo.; then by way of St. Mary's Mission and Forts Kearney and Bridger to Salt Lake City, and finally to Plumas county, Cal., where he engaged in freighting with pack mules for a number of years. In 1860 he engaged in freighting from Placerville, Cal., to Carson City and Virginia City, and throughout that territory in Nevada. Later he followed the same occupation in Oregon, Idaho and Washington. At one time he and a party of freighters took a stock of goods valued at $10,000 to Blackfoot City, Montana. On his return to the States he came by way of St. Joseph, Mo., and traveled by rail from there to Philadelphia, Pa., where he had the gold dust, accumulated while in the west, coined into money. Mr. Lockhart made three trips to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama and crossed the plains twice, first with teams and second by stage. In the fall of 1866 he purchased a farm in Fulton county, O., which he traded the following year for one of one hundred and sixty acres in Pulaski township, Williams county, where he has since resided, following quite successfully general farming and stock raising. By adding to the original purchase at various times he succeeded in acquiring altogether two hundred and seventy-eight acres of as fine farming land as the county affords. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Reformed church. In 1867 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Critchfield, the daughter of Abner Critchfield, a pioneer of Williams county. Mrs. Lockhart died on May 13, 1900. To these parents there were born eleven children, as follows: Daisy May, the wife of Charles Silcox, of Bryan, O.; Elwood G., who died at the age of twenty-five years; Arizona, who died in infancy; Della, now Mrs. William Ames of Jefferson township; William M., a farmer of Pulaski township, who married Myrtle Hecock; Oscar T., a salesman at Waverly, O., who married Miss Gertrude Rotsel; Wirt, a farmer of Pulaski township, who was wedded to Miss Bertha Fix; Bertie, the wife of Edward Carland of Pulaski township, and Zona, Solon and Willa, all still at home.

HIRAM LONG, justice of the peace, real estate and loan agent, and manager of the Hy. Long Drug Co., of Edgerton, Williams county, O., is of foreign descent, his father, John Long, having been born in Wurtemburg, Alsace, Germany, and his mother, Margaret Long, in France. John Long and wife came to America many years ago and located on a farm in St. Joseph township, Williams county, O. The father died in 1901, having survived his wife twenty-one years. Seven children were born to this marriage: Laura; Lona; Myron A.; Jennie; Hiram; Harvey V. and Alma. Laura died in 1884; Lona is a resident of Tipton, Iowa; Myron A. resides in Edgerton; Jennie died in 1887; Hiram is the subject of this sketch; Harvey V. died in 1900, and Alma is a telegraph operator in Columbus, O. Hiram Long was born in St. Joseph township, Williams county, September 9, 1868, and received his elementary education in the public schools of that county. In 1890 he graduated from the American Normal College at Logansport, Ind., teaching during his vacations to earn money with which to pay his way through college. He taught in this State and Indiana until 1892. He has been engaged in the drug business in Edgerton since 1893. For two terms each he served as clerk and treasurer of his home township. In 1903 he was elected justice of the peace on the Democratic ticket, and he is now holding that office. In politics he is a Democrat. He has also served as a delegate to county and district conventions, and in 1904 was a delegate from the Fifth Ohio district to the National Democratic convention at St. Louis. As a teacher, a business man and a public official Mr. Long has uniformally been quite successful. By dint of strong will power and clear judgment he has been enabled to accomplish every thing that he has undertaken. His standing in the community, county and district is everything that could be desired, for his honesty and integrity are universally recognized.

JOHN W. and JAMES W. LONG, M. D.'s. Any history of Williams county and its leading people would be incomplete unless it contained extended mention of the Long family, one of the oldest and most influential families of the county, being closely identified with its growth and development for a period of more than fifty years. The founder of the Long family in America was William Long, who was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1795. He was the son of John and Susanna Long and was reared in his native country, where he was married to Miss Mary White Hamilton about the year 1819. In 1830 he emigrated to the United States and settled in Carroll county, O., where he engaged in general farming. In 1849 he removed to Williams county and purchased a half section of land in Superior township. This land was all in the woods when he settled on it. After building a log cabin on the land he set to work to clear it. He was a very industrious man, possessing many of the sterling characteristics of the pioneer, and he met with well-earned success in his undertakings. He died in 1871, esteemed and respected by all who knew him or had dealings with him. To him and wife were born the following children: George E., born in County Donegal, May 1, 1821, who came with his parents to this country, settling in Carroll county. He studied medicine under his brother, Dr. Henry C. Long of Mt. Vernon, O. In 1850 he came to Williams county and began to practice medicine in Superior township. Five years later he received his degree from the Eclectic Institute of Cincinnati. In politics he was originally a Whig, then an Abolitionist and finally a Republican. In 1864 he was appointed probate judge of Williams county to fill a vacancy, elected in 1866 for a term of three years and re-elected for a like period of time, serving altogether nearly seven years. Declining to serve longer in that capacity, he continued a citizen of Bryan, where he was afterwards elected justice of the peace and mayor of the city. On September 4, 1856, he was wedded to Miss Harriet H. Parker, a daughter of Judge Payne C. Parker, one of Williams county's old and prominent citizens. Judge Long died on September 20, 1898, and is survived by his widow. Henry C. Long, the second son of William Long, was born in County Donegal on October 4, 1823, and came to this country with his parents. He was apprenticed to learn the tailors' trade, but soon gave that up and began the study of medicine. He began the practice of his profesion at Waynesburg, O., and subsequently practiced at Mt. Vernon and Wooster, both in Ohio. In 1857 he removed to Bryan, where he became one of the most distinguished physicians of his time in Wiliams county. Dr.

Henry C. Long was married to Miss Armenia Ehle, a native of Syracuse, N. Y., on March 20, 1851, and died April 11, 1867. William H., the third son of William Long, was born in County Donegal on July 10, 1826, and came with his parents to America. He received his education in the old school houses of Carroll county and remained with his father until 1852, when, marrying, he began to work for himself. He began farming on the south half of the half section of land which his father had purchased in Superior township. In the spring of 1869 he left the farm and came to Bryan. The following year he engaged in the drug business in Edgerton, in which business he continued for nine years. He then returned to Bryan, where he engaged in the same line as senior partner of the firm of Long & Kennedy. This firm carried on the business for fifteen years, when Mr. Long retired from active business. He still owns his farm in Superior township and the property which he has accumulated at Bryan. For fifteen years Mr. Long served as trustee of Pulaski township. In 1852 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Mortland, a native of Washington county, Pa., her parents being natives of County Tyrone, Ireland. She died in November, 1896. Rosanna, the fourth child of William Long, was born in County Donegal in 1830. She married Patrick S. Slevin, who was Colonel in command of the One Hundredth Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment during the Civil war and was brevetted Brigadier General for gallant conduct on the field of battle. She died in 1896, her husband having died four years earlier. Susanna, the next child, was born in Carroll county, O., in 1832, and died at the age of eight years. John W., the sixth child, was born in Carroll county on November 2, 1834. After he had received an academic education at Hagerstown, Carroll county, he taught school in the country for several winters. In 1856 he began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of his brother, Dr. (Judge) Long. He graduated from Bellevue Medical College, N. Y., in 1864. Before establishing himself in regular practice the Doctor entered the service of the United States government as acting assistant surgeon and was stationed at Fort Ruby, Nevada, from the summer of 1864 to 1867. He then returned to Williams county and began the practice of his profession in Bryan, where he has since continued. In the winter of 1871-72 the Doctor returned to New York City and took a special course in both Bellevue and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Again in 1878 he spent some time in that city pursuing his studies in special lines. Dr. Long is a member of the Williams county and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Societies, and the Ohio State Medical and the American Medical Associations, the sessions of which he has frequently attended, having attended the American Medical Associations at Buffalo, Detroit, Saratoga, Cincinnati, Denver and Portland, Oregon. In 1872 he was appointed surgeon of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway company, and he has continued as such to the present time, except during the period of the few years in which the company dispensed with surgeons. Dr. Long married Miss Eugenia Perrin, born in Perrysburg, O., in 1838, the daughter of Jonathan and Amelia Perrin. James H. Long, the seventh child, was born in Carroll county in 1838. He served as First Lieutenant and Captain of Company K, of the Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment during the Civil war and was seriously wounded at the battle of Peach Tree Creek, near Atlanta, Ga., from the effects of which he died in 1869. He was wedded to Miss Sarah Ehle, a sister of H. C. Long's wife. Thomas Long, the eighth child, was born in Carroll county in 1841 and died June 6, 1862. Loretta Long, the youngest child, was born in Carroll county in 1844 and married Dr. John U. Riggs, a practicing physician of Bryan. James Wilkerson Long, M. D., one of the young physicians of Northern Ohio, and a son of Dr. John W. Long, now of Bryan, was born in that city on February 17, 1871. His early education was secured by an attendance at the Bryan public schools. Following this training he attended the Ohio Wesleyan University, and in 1893 he entered the Medical department of the University of Michigan, where he spent three years. In 1896 he entered Bellevue Medical College of New York, from which he was graduated with the Class of 1897. He then took two months training in a post-graduate course in the Post-Graduate School in New York. Returning to Bryan he entered the practice with his father, and in 1898 he returned to New York City and spent three months in post-graduate work at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. In 1899 he spent some time at the Chicago Post-Graduate College. In 1902 he spent two months at the New York Polyclinic, and in the year 1903-4 he was junior assistant surgeon at the Royal Opthalmic Hospital in London, England. In December, 1895, he was married to Miss Minnie L. Kautsky of Indianapolis, Ind., the daughter of Wenzel Kautsky. To this union one son has been born, Perrin, born April 6, 1899.

MOSES H. LOUDEN, the first representative of the Louden family to settle in Williams county, came from Crawford county, O., in 1844. He located on a farm in Superior township and carried on general farming with marked success. He and wife, a Miss Bacon before her marriage, spent the remainder of their lives on this farm. William Harrison Louden, after the close of the Civil war, settled on a farm near Montpelier and followed the occupation of general farming. In 1881 he erected the store building in Montpelier now occupied by his two sons, Willard and Charles. Later he engaged in the lumber business for two years, meeting with unusual success. Then he built a fine opera house, but it was soon after destroyed by fire. In public affairs he was quite prominent, taking an active part in politics. He served on the city council and school board for some years. In 1890 he moved to Kansas, where he died on December 15, 1893. His widow, Miss Mary Lattanner, before her marriage, still resides in Montpelier. Willard Asher Louden was born in Montpelier, where he was reared and educated. From the spring of 1890 to the fall of 1894 he resided with his parents in Kansas. His attendance at school was limited to that of the public schools of his native town. When seventeen years old he engaged for a short time in the grocery business, and then removed to the West, locating in Kansas, where he was engaged in stock-raising. In 1894 he returned to Montpelier and a second time opened up a grocery establishment. Six years later he added drugs, jewelry, etc., to his original stock of goods. From the time of its organization he has taken a deep interest in the affairs of the Montpelier Telephone Company. For six years he has served as township and corporation treasurer. He is actively identified with the order of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Louden married Miss Isabella Stainthorp, a native of Hillsdale, Mich., and the daughter of George Stainthorp.

LOWELL McKELVEY is the owner of a well improved and ably managed farm in Superior township and is known as one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of Williams county. He is a native son of the old Buckeye State, having been born in Portage county, O., on the 3d of October, 1845, and being a representative of one of the old and honored pioneer families of that section. The genealogy is traced back to stanch Irish origin and the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch was the founder of the family in Portage county, having immigrated from the Emerald Isle, and having been a prosperous farmer of Portage county in the pioneer era. Stephen B. McKelvey, father of Lowell, was born and reared in Portage county and was a man of much intellectuality, having been for a number of years a successful teacher in the common schools, but he later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, in which he was successfully engaged during the remainder of his long and useful life. In the late forties he purchased a tract of wild land in Center township, Williams county, and there he and his family took up their abode in 1850. He developed a valuable farm and continued to reside on the old homestead until his death, which occurred in 1888, his devoted wife having passed away in the preceding year. Her maiden name was Jennet Byers and she was born in Mahoning county, O. They became the parents of eleven children: Lucetta, Artilisa, Antoinett, Lydia E., Lois A., Lowell, Benjamin F., Hiram, an infant who died unnamed, Wilson A. and Robert R. Lucetta, Artilisa, Antoinett, Lydia E., Lois A. and Robert R. are all deceased; Lowell, subject of this sketch, was the first son born; Frank is a farmer of Marshall county, Iowa; Hiram is engaged in farming in Center township, and Wilson is a farmer in Pulaski township. Stephen B. McKelvey was a stalwart Democrat in his political adherency and he served as justice of the peace for more than thirty years. Lowell McKelvey was reared on the pioneer farmstead and received his educational training in the common schools of Williams county, having been a student in the school of which his father had charge for a portion of his scholastic days. After leaving school he went to the west, passing three years in various parts of Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. In 1871 he returned to Williams county and here he has since been successfully engaged in farming and stock-growing. His well-improved farm, comprising one hundred acres, is eligibly located in Section 34, Superior township, and practically the entire tract is under cultivation or eligible therefor. He gives his attention to diversified farming and to the raising of high-grade cattle, sheep and swine, while his progressive ideas and good management are manifest in the general appearance of his farm and its appurtenances. He is a member of the board of directors of the Williams County Fair Association, and is one of those energetic and enterprising citizens whose efforts are conserving the prestige and advancement of the opulent agricultural resources of this favored section of the Buckeye State. In politics Mr. McKelvey is a stanch supporter of the Democratic party, and while he has never sought or desired office he has rendered effective service as school director in his district. June 24, 1874, Mr. McKelvey was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Miller, daughter of John Miller, of Boone county, Iowa, and they have two children: Harry, who was born July 4, 1876, is engaged in farming in Superior township. He married Miss Mirtie Cummings, of this township, and they have three children—Arleen, Zola and Mildred. Stephen B., the younger son, was born September 1, 1881, and is now a resident of Oklahoma City, Okla.

FREDERICK E. MADER, member of the city council and agent of the Cincinnati Northern Railway Company at Bryan, Williams county, O., was born in that city December 14, 1875. He is the son of Richard and Catherine (Miller) Mader, both natives of Germany, where the former was born February 7, 1843, and the latter on May 27, of the same year. Richard Mader emigrated to America about the year 1871 and located at Bridgeport, Conn., where he remained two years. Then he removed to Williams county, O., spending the first two weeks at Stryker, and' then locating permanently at Bryan. His first work was in the stave factory, which was followed by employment in the plow factory. For eighteen years he was engaged in the business of buying grain and wool, after which he retired from the active duties of life. For the past twenty years he has taken an active part in the work of the Odd Fellow organization. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. His wife came to Bridgeport, Conn., a short time before he did, and there they were marreid. Two children have been born to these parents. They are: Minnie C., born at Bridgeport, and Frederick E. Frederick E. Mader received his education in the public schools of his native city, and at the age of fourteen years became a messenger boy of the Postal Telegraph Company, whose offices were in the depot of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad Company. After serving in this capacity for a year and a half he was appointed to a clerkship in the office of the railway company, having learned telegraphy while acting as messenger boy. Here he served three years, when he entered the employ of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company, working in the freight department. A year later he was made agent of the Cincinnati Northern and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway companies, in which capacity he acted for three and one-half years. On September

12, 1898, he was appointed telegraph, freight and passenger agent of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad Company at Bryan, a position which he now holds. In the fall of 1904 he was elected to the city council. In this body he is a member of the Electric Lights and Water Works, the Streets and Sidewalks and the Judiciary committees, and chairman of the Claims and Ways and Means committees. When twenty-one years old he joined the Masonic fraternity and is now a member of the Fountain City Lodge, No. 215, the Northwest Chapter, No. 45, and Defiance Commandery, No. 30, Knights Templar, and is a Thirty-second Degree Mason in Toledo Consistory, of which he is a charter member.

FRANK A. MALCOLM, a successful farmer and merchant of Cooney, O., was born in Northwest township, Williams county, on October 20, 1867. He is the son of Archibald T. Malcolm, mention of whom is made in the succeeding review. Frank A. Malcolm was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools of the county and in Montpelier high school. Until 1904 he was engaged exclusively in general farming on the home place, consisting of one hundred and forty acres of highly productive land. Since then he has devoted a part of his time to merchandising at Cooney, O., having as a partner Mr. H. S. Ely, mentioned elsewhere in this work. In politics he is actively identified with the Republican party, having served as township trustee. Since 1896 he has been a member of the Republican county committee. In the work of Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and that of the Rebeccas, he takes an active part. On December 31, 1892, he was wedded to Miss Lena Jane Lougheed, the daughter of Robert and Electa (Goodrich) Lougheed, the former born in Ireland on August 15, 1822, and the latter in Pompey, Onondaga county, N. Y., on May 3, 1832. Robert Lougheed enlisted in Company I of the First Michigan Light Artillery on August 15, 1862, and served with credit until the close of the war. In 1870 he removed to Williams county, O., and located on a farm of eighty acres and there ended his days, on January 4, 1899. In politics he was an ardent Republican, serving his people in the capacity of township trustee and clerk. He was the son of Robert and Maria (Cuff) Lougheed, both natives of Ireland, who came to Canada in 1828, where the latter died two years later. Mrs. Lougheed was the daughter of Archibold and Mabel (Beebe) Goodrich, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of New York. Archibold Goodrich removed to Michigan from Connecticut and died there in 1865. His widow survived him until 1888, when she died in Williams county. The father of Archibold Goodrich was Samuel Goodrich, a native of Connecticut. He and wife died in Courtland county, N. Y. To Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Malcolm there have been born two children. They are: Zander E. and Francis Harold.

JOHN W. MALCOLM, a representative farmer and stock-grower of Northwest township, was born in Williams county, O., in the township where he now resides, on the 30th of November, 1862, and is a son of Archibald T. and Lucretia (Mahan) Malcolm, the former of whom was born in Scotland, October 24, 1818, while the latter was born in Avon, Lorain county, O., June 22, 1826. Archibald T. Malcolm is of stanch Scottish lineage and the only living child of Alexander and Barbara (Titlear) Malcolm, both of whom emigrated to America and settled in Huron county, O., where they ended their long and useful lives. He was a skilled horticulturist and general gardener, having won many prizes for the superiority of his products. He was a son of William and Catherine Malcolm, both representing old and prominent families of the land of hills and heather. Archibald T. Malcolm secured his educational discipline in his native land, where he was reared in the vocation of gardening, under the effective direction of his father. In 1834 he came to America, settling in Huron county, O., and in 1854 he came as a pioneer to Williams county, where he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, most of which was reclaimed to cultivation under his direction. He is a citizen of influence and was during his active life one of the most prosperous farmers and stock dealers of the county. He and his wife now reside in Cooney, Northwest township, retired from the activities of life, he being in his eighty-eighth year. In politics he was originally a Whig, but he espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and has never since wavered in his fealty to the same. He has served as township trustee and treasurer and as land assessor, wielding much influence in local affairs. He and his wife are valued members of the United Brethren church. Lucretia (Mahan) Malcolm, whose marriage to Archibald T. Malcolm was solemnized in 1843, is a daughter of John and Mary (Cooper) Mahan, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in the State of New York. They came from the Empire state to Lorain county, O. They later removed to Michigan, and Mr. Mahan died in Eaton county of that State, and his wife died in Steuben county, Ind. They had thirteen children, of whom five are living. Mr. Mahan followed the vocation of farming during the greater portion of his active career, and in politics he was a stalwart Democrat. John W. Malcolm passed his youth on the homestead farm and after completing the curriculum of the local schools he availed himself of the advantages of the high school in Montpelier. He is the owner of a finely improved farm of one hundred and forty-six acres, in Section 15. Northwest township, and in addition to being engaged in diversified agriculture he makes a specialty of breeding O. I. C. swine and of the feeding and shipping of cattle and hogs upon an extensive scale, being one of the leading stock dealers of his township. In politics he is arrayed as an uncompromising supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and he has rendered effective service as trustee of his township. He is affiliated with Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Encampment of the same order at Camden, Michigan, and is also a member of the Rebeckah branch of that order. Of the other children in his father's family it may be stated that William, who resides in Springport, Michigan, being a farmer by vocation, was four years in service as a Union soldier during the Civil war; Alexander died in 1871; Emma also is deceased; and Frank A. is engaged in the general merchandise business at Cooney, Williams county. November 30, 1885, John W. Malcolm was united in marriage to Miss Lodema Coolman, daughter of David Coolman, of whom specific mention is made elsewhere in this work. Of the two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm the first died in infancy and the second, Ted, at the age of one and one-half years.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MASTELLER.—A few miles to the southwest of the village of Pioneer, in Madison township, is located the finely improved farm of Mr. Masteller, who is one of the worthy citizens of Williams county who claims the old Keystone State as the place of his nativity. He was born in Columbia county, Pa., on the 15th of September, 1834, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Stettler) Masteller, both of whom were born and reared in that State, the father of George having been a native of Germany, whence he immigrated to America and located in Pennsylvania in the early pioneer epoch. In 1844 George Masteller removed with his family to Knox county, O., his wife having died in 1834. He continued to reside in Knox county, an honest, industrious citizen, until his death, which occurred in 1864. He was a blacksmith by trade and vocation, was a Democrat in his political proclivities, and both he and his wife were consistent members of the German Reformed church. George W. Masteller secured his early educational training in the common schools of Pennsylvania and Ohio, having been about ten years of age at the time of his father's removal to Knox county. He learned the trade of blacksmith under the effective direction of his honored sire, and followed the same as a vocation for the long period of twenty years. In 1872 he came to Williams county and purchased his present farm of eighty acres, where he has since made his home, having developed one of the valuable farms of the county and having made most substantial improvements in the way of buildings, while the years have brought to him a full measure of peace and prosperity. He gives unequivocal allegiance to the Democratic party, but has never held office, save that of member of the school board, of which he was incumbent several years. He is held in high esteem in the community and is a man of intelligence and sterling character. He was one of the organizers of the Cyclone Insurance Company of Williams county, and was its president for five years. November 19, 1858, Mr. Masteller was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Sever, daughter of James and Sarah Sever, both of whom died in Knox county, O. The gracious domestic ties of thirty years were severed by the death of Mrs. Masteller on the 7th of December, 1888. She had borne to her husband two children: Ellen and Jennie May, the latter of whom died in April, 1904, at the age of thirty-two years. Ellen is the wife of George W. Durbin, a representative farmer of Madison township, and they have one child, Bessie. Mr. Masteller is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and belongs to Joy Lodge, No. 461, located at Pioneer. He takes a great interest in the order and has filled all the chairs. He has passed through all the branches of the order except the Canton.

GOTTLOB MAUERHAN, JR., proprietor of an extensive meat-market of Edon, is of German descent, his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents having been born in the "Vaterland." His great-grandfather was Konrad Mauerhan, a man of influence in his community. Melchoir Zindel, who married a Miss Ball, was his maternal great-grandfather. His grandparents, Konrad and Jokobine Zindel, lived and died in Germany, where the former was a prominent merchant. The following children were born to these parents: Magdalina, Torotea, Konrad, Jokobine, Frederika, Gottlobine, Pauline, Gottlob and Karl. Gottlob Mauerhan, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, born in Germany on March 21, 1845, was reared and educated in his native land. In 1864 he emigrated to America, landing at New York city, where he remained one year. In March of the next year he enlisted in Company A of the Thirty-fifth New Jersey volunteer infantry and served until the close of the war. In September, 1865, he removed from New York City to Williams county, locating in St. Joseph township. Six years later he located in Edon, and for two years worked at such employment as he could secure. In 1874 he opened up a meat market in Edon and conducted it with marked success for twenty-two years. In 1896 he retired to his farm of forty-one acres, situated one-half mile from Edon, and there he is now living a happy and contented life. The home farm originally contained fifty acres, but nine acres were sold to his oldest son. The farm is in a high state of cultivation and well equipped with all the necessary buildings. In politics he is a stanch Democrat. He has served as a member of the town council, and for four years as township treasurer. Mr. Mauerhan and family are devout members of the German Lutheran church. On May 13, 1866, he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Louisa Keinath, a native of Germany and the daughter of John and Louisa (Overider) Keinath. After the death of her husband Mrs. Keinath emigrated to America, locating in Richland county, O., in 1861. The following year she removed to Crawford county and in November, 1865, to Williams county. To Gottlob Mauerhan, Sr., and first wife there were born the following children, all of them still living: Gottlob, Mary, Christina, Louisa, Lena, Clara and Karl. His first wife died on November 26, 1893, and he married Miss Caroline Hoch, a native of Germany, but for the past twenty-five years a resident of Williams county. Gottlob Mauerhan, Jr., was born in Williams county on February 20, 1868, and was reared and educated in Edon. Until 1890 he worked for his father in the meat business and then became a partner. When his father retired in 1896 he formed a partnership with F. W. Grim, and the business was conducted very successfully by this firm until 1903, when Mr. Grim withdrew and Mr. Mauerhan became sole proprietor. Under his management the business has flourished beyond all reasonable expectation. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as township, corporation and school board treasurer. In religious matters he and his wife are devout members of the Lutheran church. On April 11, 1894, he was wedded to Miss Louisa Kaltenbach, a native of Edon and the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Merick) Kaltenbach, who emigrated from Germany and located in Edon in pioneer days. He was a blacksmith by trade and did an extensive business in that line. To Gottlob Mauerhan, Jr., and wife two children have been born: Arthur, born January 25, 1895, and Edwin, born July 7, 1896. Both are attending the Edon public schools.

LOREN S. MAXWELL, a prominent and successful dealer in buggies and agricultural implements of Edon, was born in Steuben county, Ind., October 7, 1872. His grandparents were Samuel and Mary (Houtz) Maxwell, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Irish descent. His maternal grandparents were Sylvester and Henrietta (Ogden) Parrot, both natives of Ohio. Slyvester Parrott was a Republican in politics and with his wife a member of the Baptist church. Of the seven children born to these parents six are still living. Both parents are deceased. Loren S. Maxwell is the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Parrott) Maxwell, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Wayne county in 1840 and the latter in Crawford county on December 28, 1847. Samuel Maxwell grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in the country schools. Having learned the blacksmith trade, he came to Steuben county, Ind., when a young man and there plied his trade for some years. In 1865 he was married and moved to the farm which he made his home until 1893, following general farming. He was a Republican in politics, a member of the order of Knights of Pythias and with his wife a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Maxwell died in 1895 and is still survived by his widow, who is now the wife of James H. Hatheway, of Edon. Their marriage was blessed with the advent of six children, of whom four are still living. Loren S. Maxwell was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools of Steuben county, Ind., and at the Tri-State Normal of Angola, Ind., taking the commercial course in the latter institution. At the early age of fourteen years he began working for himself. Coming to Edon he clerked for one year for W. E. Gross, hardware merchant, and in 1896 he embarked in the buggy and agricultural business, which he has ever since conducted with marked success. In the buggy line he carries the largest stock in the county. This business has grown to such proportions that two traveling salesmen are kept constantly on the road. In politics he is an active Republican, having served on the central committee of Florence township. In the affairs of Edon Lodge, No. 644, Knights of Pythias, he has always taken an active part, having passed all of the chairs and having represented the lodge at the sessions of the Grand Lodge at Cincinnati and Springfield. On December 26, 1897, at Hamilton, Ind., he was wedded to Miss Mabel C. Swift, the daughter of George O. and Mildred (Lemon) Swift, early settlers of Steuben county, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell are devout members of the Methodist church, the former being a trustee and member of the building committee. To these parents there have been born the following children: Russell V., and Duane, who died in infancy.

CHARLES MEHRLING, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Bridgewater township, was born in Huron county, O., on October 30, 1836. He is the son of John and Lydia (Raver) Mehrling, both natives of Fayette county, Pa. John Mehrling removed from his native State to Huron county O., in 1857. Later he removed to Northwest township, Williams county, and in March, 1861, died in Superior township. His widow, who survived him until September 13, 1887, was a Presbyterian. He was a farmer and a Democrat. To their marriage there were born ten children, six of whom are still living. Charles Mehrling was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools of the county. In 1857 he settled with his parents on a farm of one hundred acres in Northwest township, which he at once proceeded to clear and prepare for cultivation. In 1864 he patriotically answered his country's call for troops by enlisting as a private in Company B of the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry and served creditably until the close of the war. On his return from the war he resumed his chosen occupation on the farm. In 1890 he purchased the farm which he now owns. In addition to this farm of seventy-two acres he owns one of forty-five acres in Northwest township. In politics he is affiliated with the Democratic party. In 1877 he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Eliza Joice, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Johnson) Joice, and a sister of William Joice, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.

FREDERICK WILLIAM MEYERS, a prominent and well-to-do citizen of Edon, is the grand-son of Jacob Meyers, a native of Germany who emigrated to the United States in the forties and located in Williams county in pioneer days. He and his wife, also of German birth, died on the homestead east of West Unity. Jacob and Philipena (Mann) Meyers, the parents of F. W. Meyers, were both natives of Germany, the Mann family having emigrated to America at about the same time the Meyers family came over. Jacob Meyers received his education in his native country, and, coming to the United States with his parents, located on a farm in Williams county, where he followed successfully general farming. In August, 1866, he died on the homestead south of West Unity, leaving a widow and four children. His wife, who died on February 14, 1889, was a devout member of the German Methodist church. Six children were born to these parents, three of whom are still living. Their names follow: Elizabeth, deceased; Frederick, William, Jacob, Louis and two others that died in infancy. Frederick William Meyers was born two and one-half miles south of West Unity on November 29, 1862. He grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education by attending the district and West Unity graded schools. Having served an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade he worked for W. C. Gill of West Unity for about six years. In 1887 he removed to Kunkle, a village of Williams county, and there embarked in the furniture and undertaking business. After a short stay there he removed to Waldron, Mich., where for the next five years he engaged in the same line and suffered the loss of his business by fire, carrying no insurance. While in Waldron he twice formed a partnership with his brother Jacob and as many times dissolved it, the last time in 1893, when he removed to Edon, just in time for the fire of 1894. He at once rebuilt the store in Edon that he now occupies, and the following year his substantial residence. Since the fire in 1894 he has met with unusual success. Among the public buildings that he constructed in Edon are the old and the new school buildings. In politics he has been actively identified with the Republican party, having served in the capacity of school board member and town councilman. He and his wife and daughter are members of the Christian church. On May 6, 1888, he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Effie Rosalie Knoff of Williams county, the daughter of Dr. William and Elizabeth (Alleman) Knoff, early settlers of Primrose, Williams county. Dr. Knoff was born in Coshocton county, on February 11, 1831, and died at the home of his daughter in Edon November 17, 1903. His father was of Yankee-Dutch and his mother of Scotch-Irish descent. Mrs. Elizabeth (Alleman) Knoff was born August 27, 1844, at Shelby, O., and died at her home, near Primrose, O., on October 28, 1900. She was of German descent. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, one son and three daughters—Effie Rosalie, Della May (Knoff) Nicolen, Willis Legrand and Almeda Grace (Knoff) Osborn. To Mr. and Mrs. Meyers there have been born four children. Their names are: Lola Fern, Hoy Atley, Donald Reid and Relmond Dale.

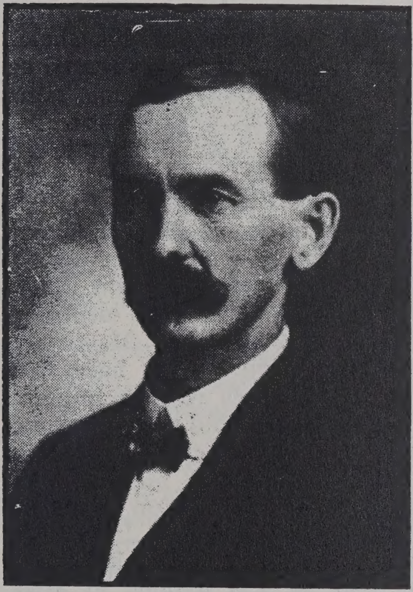
JAMES H. MILLER, one of the representative business men and influential and popular citizens of West Unity, is cashier of the West Unity Banking Company and secretary and manager of the Citizens' Telephone Company. In Hicksville, Defiance county, O., on the 29th of June, 1867, James Heywood Miller was born, being a son of James M. and Catherine (Casebeer) Miller. James Madison Miller was born in Wayne county, O., in 1835, and he died in Hicksville, in March, 1868, when the subject of this review was less than one year of age. He was a son of John and Margaret (Boone)

Miller, both of whom were born in Wayne county, where the respective families were early founded, while the parents of the latter were numbered among the early settlers in Defiance county. John Miller was a pioneer of Hicksville, that county, and was one of its most prominent and valued citizens, having been a manufacturer of lumber and also having conducted a grocery business for a long term of years. Both he and his wife died in Hicksville. James Madison Miller devoted his attention principally to the saw-milling business, and was in the prime of his life at the time of death. He was a reliable and successful business man, commanding uniform confidence and esteem. He was a Whig in politics and was in the three months' service as a member of an Ohio regiment in the Civil war. His widow is now the wife of George Rings, Sr., of West Unity. She is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Lower) Casebeer, the former of whom was born in Tuscarawas county, O., in 1818, while the latter was born in West Virginia, in 1817, and died, in Hicksville, Defiance county, in 1902, at the age of eighty-five years. James Casebeer, who now resides in West Unity, is one of the honored pioneers of Defiance county, where he became an extensive farmer and stock dealer. He was the first president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, of Hicksville, the predecessor of the present First National Bank. James H. Miller has passed the greater portion of his life in Williams county, in whose public schools he secured his educational discipline, having been graduated in the high school at West Unity. In this place he initiated his business career as a salesman in a general store, and he followed this line of occupation for several years. In September, 1888, he effected the organization of the West Unity Banking Company, which began business on the 15th of the following month, and he has served as cashier of the company from the start, and the fine business now controlled by the concern is to be attributed in a large degree to his efficient executive and administrative management and to the high personal esteem in which he is held in the community. On the 1st of January, 1899, Mr. Miller also organized the Citizens' Telephone Co., of which he has since been secretary and manager, and in divers other ways he has shown his enterprising spirit and his interest in the advancement of his home city and county. In politics he gives his support to the Democratic party, but in local affairs he maintains an independent attitude. He served one term as a member of the village council and is at the present time a member of the board of education, with which he has been identified for three terms. He is a valued and appreciative member of the Presbyterian church of West Unity, of which he has been secretary and treasurer from the time of its incorporation, in 1891. He is affiliated with Superior Lodge, No. 179, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he was Worshipful Master for two terms; and he is a charter member of Evergreen Lodge, No. 637, Knights of Pythias, of which he was the first chancellor commander. Mr. Miller enjoys unqualified popularity in both business and social circles and is properly accorded recognition in a compilation of this nature.

ALFRED M. MOORE, the efficient and popular superintendent of the Williams county infirmary and farm, located in Jefferson township, was born in Richland county, O., on the 12th of September, 1855, and is a son of Joseph and Harriet (Barr) Moore, the former of whom was born in Cumberland county, Pa., and the latter in Richland county, O. The father came to Ohio and located in Richland county when a young man, and there he followed the carpenter trade until 1862, when he removed with his family to Hillsdale county, Mich., where he continued in the work of his trade, maintaining his home in Amboy township. He remained there until 1869, when he came to Williams county, locating in Bridgewater township, where he engaged in farming and also worked at his trade, here passing the remainder of his long and useful life, commanding the high regard of all who knew him. He died in October, 1891, and his cherished and devoted wife died in November of the following year. Both were devoted members of the German Baptist church, in which he was a local minister, and in politics he was a stanch adherent of the Democratic party. Of the eight children in the family the following is a brief record: Henderson is a well known carpenter and farmer of Jefferson township; Margaret is the wife of Benjamin F. Wendt and resides in Norton county, Kan.; Alfred M. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Charles is a prosperous farmer of Norton county, Kan.; Annie died in 1893: Eliza resides with her brother in Norton county, Kan.; Joseph is deceased; and Hattie is the wife of James Silvernail, of Midland county, Mich. Alfred M. Moore secured a good public school education, in Ohio and Michigan, and in his youth learned the carpenter trade under the direction of his father, with whom he was associated until he had attained to the age of twenty-three years, when he initiated his independent career, locating in Bridgewater township, where he followed his trade, in connection with agricultural pursuits, for several years, being energetic, capable and reliable, and thus meeting with due success in his efforts. In November, 1900, he removed to Jefferson township, where he was engaged in farming until April 1, 1902, when he was appointed to his present responsible office of superintendent of the county infirmary, in which he has proved a most efficient and popular executive, showing much consideration for the unfortunate wards in his charge and securing the best returns from the cultivation of the county farm. He is the owner of a farm of eighty-five acres, in Center township, and gives a general supervision to the same. In politics he accords unqualified allegiance to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are members of the German Baptist church. In October, 1878, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Moore to Miss Diana Koch, who was born in Elkhart county, Ind., being a daughter of Moses and Sarah (Troxel) Koch, both of whom were born in Wayne county, O., whence they removed to Indiana, and eventually came to Williams county and located in Jefferson township, where the father has since been numbered among the influential farmers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Koch have had six children, namely: Diana, wife of Mr. Moore; Lenetta, deceased; Daniel and George, farmers of Jefferson township; Saloma, wife of George W. Bohner, a farmer of Hillsdale county, Mich.; and Frank, remaining on the homestead with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have three children: Howard E., who married Miss Florence Krabill, is a farmer of Defiance county O.; and Paul L. and Grace remain at the parental home, popular young folk of the community and prominent in its social life.

BENJAMIN F. MORRIS (deceased), who was a highly respected citizen and retired farmer of Montpelier, was the representative of a family that was established in America in a very early day, one that can be traced even as far back as the settlement of Jamestown, Va. His grandfather was Benjamin Morris, a native of the Old Dominion. The parents of Benjamin F. Morris were William and Hannah (Smith) Morris, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. William Morris, born in 1794, after leaving school learned the shoemaker trade, and for some years traveled over the country plying that avocation. After the close of the War of 1812, during which he served as a soldier in the American army, being the youngest soldier in his company, he came to Berks county, Pa., and opening up a shop in Lynn Creek township, conducted a very successful business for some years. In 1835, after his marriage in Berks county, William Morris removed to Stark county, O., where he bought a farm and spent the remainder of his days. He was a broad-minded and well-read man, an exemplary citizen and a kind, indulgent parent. His death occurred in February, 1860, his wife having died eight years earlier. To these parents there were born four sons and seven daughters, of whom four daughters are yet living. Benjamin F. Morris was born in Berks county, Pa., on August 10, 1829, and was a lad of five years when his parents moved to Ohio. He grew to manhood on the parental farm in Stark county, receiving a common school education. In 1853 he came to Williams county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Bridgewater township, where he established his permanent home. Later he purchased an additional tract of ninety acres, making a total of two hundred and ten acres in the farm. On June 1, 1855, he married Miss Mary J. Crowl, a native of Columbiana county, O., who died in 1863, leaving four children, as follows: Elizabeth H., deceased, who married Fred Shammel; William H., who died at the age of eight years; Sarah A., deceased, who was the wife of George Waterston; and George E., ex-auditor of Williams county, of whom more extended mention is made on a following page. Two years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Morris married a second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Harriet Umbenhaur, born in Superior township on April 12, 1842, the daughter of George and Laura (Lloyd) Umbenhaur, the former a native of Berkeley county, W. Va., then Virginia, and the latter a native of the State of New York. To this marriage there were born five children, of whom four are still living. They are: Mary C., the wife of Howard Griffith of Montpelier; Thomas L., of Montpelier; Theodosia, now Mrs. B. O. Bistline of Wood county, O., and Ford B. Benjamin, the first born, died at the age of two years. Mr. Morris was always actively identified with the Republican party, having filled practically all of the township offices and having served as county commissioner from 1894 to 1897. On April 16, 1905, Benjamin F. Morris died in Montpelier, O., respected by all who knew him. He is survived by his widow who resides in the comfortable home at Montpelier. The grandfather of Mrs. Morris, Philip Umbenhaur, came to Ohio in an early day, locating in Muskingum county. Later he removed to what is now Defiance county, and from there to Superior township, Williams county, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and ten acres. At that time he was one of five settlers in the township. He married Miss Elizabeth Pultz, a native of Virginia, and by her had fifteen children, all of whom, except Abraham, the youngest son, are deceased. Her father, George Umbenhaur, married Miss Laura Lloyd, a native of New York State, the daughter of Elijah Lloyd, an early settler of Defiance county. These parents had five children, of whom four are still living. Their names follow: Harriet, now Mrs. B. F. Morris of Montpelier; Benjamin F., a resident of Montpelier; Virgil A., a resident of Miami county, Kan.; Alpheus, a retired farmer of Montpelier, and Francis, who died when two years old. George Umbenhaur died in the fall of the year made historical by the great Chicago fire, aged sixty-two years, his wife having died in 1852, when only thirty-two years old.

WILLIAM MOSS, who is one of the well known and influential farmers of Millcreek township, where he has served for more than a score of years as justice of the peace, is a representative of one of the pioneer families of this county and of one which was founded in America in the Colonial epoch of our national history. His great-grandfather, Thomas Moss, was born and reared in Ireland and there he married a Miss Ross. They immigrated to America and settled near Philadelphia, Pa., where he engaged in farming. Later they removed to Washington county, that state, where they passed the remainder of their lives, honored for their sterling worth of character. Thomas Moss there owned and improved a good farm, providing well for his family. This worthy couple became the parents of six sons and three daughters, all of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Their names, in order of birth, were as follows: Joseph, John, Thomas, Margaret, Polly, James, William, Jane and Ross. Thomas Moss, Jr., grandfather of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born about the year 1759 and received a good education, being a man of high intellectuality and stanch integrity. He followed the vocation of surveyor for some time and also taught several terms of school. When but seventeen years of age he enlisted in the Continental army and did valiant service in the cause of independence during the war of the Revolution, remaining in the ranks until the close of the war, though he held a clerical position during the latter part of the great conflict. In 1792 he was married to Miss Eleanor Swearengen, of Washington county, Pa. She was born July 4, 1776, being a daughter of Daniel Swearengen. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Moss removed to Brooke county, Va. (now West Virginia), where he secured a farm. He later sold this property and came to Ohio, locating in Jefferson county, about one and one-half miles from the present city of Steubenville, where he partially reclaimed a farm of one hundred acres. This property he finally sold, returning to Brooke county, Va., where he bought land. In 1823 he disposed of his property there and again came to Ohio, settling in Blooming Grove township, Richland county, where he cleared and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he continued to reside until his death, in 1855, at the patriarchal age of ninety-six years. His wife passed away in 1858, aged eighty-two years. They became the parents of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, while the names of the others were as follows: James, William, Daniel, John, Joseph, Polly, Rebecca, Samuel, Sarah and Ross. Of these children Samuel demands more particular attention in this connection, having been the father of William, the subject of this sketch. Samuel Moss was born in Brooke county, West Va., which was then a part of the Old Dominion, on the 4th of February, 1811, and in the autumn of 1823 he made his first trip to Ohio, driving a flock of sheep through to Richland county. He remained a short time and then returned to his native county, where he remained in the home of his maternal uncle Samuel Swearengen, for some time, in the meanwhile attending school. Thereafter he made several trips back and forth between Brooke county, Va., and Richland county, O., to which latter place his parents had removed in 1823, as already noted. In said county, in 1832, he entered claim to eighty acres of government land, in Blooming Grove township, and the deed to the property bore the signature of President Andrew Jackson. Thereafter he gave his attention to the development on his farm, while he continued to work more or less at the carpenter trade, which he had learned in his youth. April 25, 1833, he married Miss Priscilla Turbett, of Mansfield, O. She was born in Mifflin county Pa., being a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Rice) Turbett, who removed to Richland county, O., in 1824, settling in Blooming Grove township. Here her mother died in 1833 and her father in 1871. They reared a large family of children and Mr. Turbett also had a number of children by his second marriage. He was a son of Thomas and Jane (Wilson) Turbett, and was born in Mifflin county, Pa., about 1786, being one of a family of eleven children. His parents were natives of Ireland, whence they came to America prior to the Revolution, during which his father was colonel of a regiment of Continental troops. Samuel Moss came to Williams county in the spring of 1853 and became one of the representative farmers and honored citizens of Millcreek township, where he died on the 25th of February, 1901, at the advanced age of ninety years and twenty-one days. His devoted wife passed away June 13, 1882. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas; Ellen, now the wife of Thomas Crawford; Joseph, deceased; Sarah, now the wife of Samuel Holenbaugh; and William, who is the youngest of the family and the subject of this sketch. All of these brothers and sisters are residing in Williams county. William Moss, to whom this sketch is dedicated, was born near Rome, Richland county, O., on the 13th of December, 1852, and when he was about five months old his parents removed to Williams county, where he has ever since made his home. He was reared on the farm and secured his early education in the common schools, duly profiting by his advantages in the line, as is evident when we revert to the fact that he became eligible for pedagogic honors, having taught during the winter terms for about four years, working on the farm in the summer seasons. April 29, 1875, Mr. Moss was united in marriage to Miss Malinda Clay, who was born in Williams county, March 6, 1856, being a daughter of George and Margaret (Glime) Clay, who were numbered among the early settlers of Millcreek township. George Clay was born in Lancaster county, Pa., August 22, 1819, and he died in Williams county, O., June 29, 1893. He accompanied his parents on their removal from the Keystone State to Richland county, O., where his marriage to Margaret Glime was solemnized, August 22, 1838. They became the parents of nine children, of whom five are living, namely: Dr. John C., of Pomona, Cal.; Samuel, who likewise resides in California; Jacob, of Bellevue, Kan.; Margaret, wife of John Blair, of Bryan; and Malinda, wife of William Moss. Mrs. Clay was summoned into eternal rest on the 29th of December, 1860. To Mr. and Mrs. Moss have been born six children: Margaret, born October 16, 1877, died in infancy; Sarah Ellen, born May 30, 1879, died May 19, 1880; George Samuel, born June 8, 1881, is engaged in the practice of law in the city of Toledo; Thomas Earl, born July 6, 1883, is a student in Toledo; Mary Allora, born December 6, 1885, is the wife of Frank Raymond, of Millcreek township; and William D., born May 22, 1889, remains at the parental home. Mr. Moss has been engaged in agricultural pursuits from his youth to the present time and his homestead is one of the model farms of Millcreek township, comprising one hundred and sixty acres and having excellent improvements. In politics he is a stalwart in the Democratic camp, and he has been called upon to serve in various local offices of public trust. For twenty-one years he has been incumbent of the office of justice of the peace, while he was township clerk for five years, and has also served as land appraiser, assessor and school director. In 1893 he was the candidate of his party for county auditor, and in 1902 for probate judge, running ahead of his ticket at each election, but he was defeated owing to the large adverse party majority. No man in the community commands more unqualified esteem, and he is liberal and public-spirited in his attitude. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church.



GEORGE E. MORRIS, the efficient and obliging auditor of Williams county, who has just recently retired from that position, was born on the farm of his father in Bridgewater township on January 1, 1862. He is descended from an ancestry that has had an abode in America for nearly four hundred years. The first American progenitor came with the followers of Capt. John Smith and assisted in establishing the first English settlement in the Western hemisphere at Jamestown, Va., in 1607. The Old Dominion continued to be the abiding place of the family for several generations, and finally the ancestors of the Williams county branch took up their abode in Pennsylvania, later removing to the Buckeye State, and for the past fifty years the Morris family has been identified among the leading citizens of Williams county. The late Benjamin F. Morris, the father of the subject of this sketch, is given appropriate mention in a preceding memoir. George E. Morris was reared on the farm and attended the country schools, also the graded school at Pioneer. He remained with his father until he was twenty-one years old. When nineteen years old he began teaching school, continuing in that capacity for six winters. For several years he was engaged in selling farming implements, meeting with marked success, and from that time on he has followed farming and buying and selling farms. In the spring of 1889 he bought a farm west of Montpelier. In politics he has been prominent and active ever since he attained his majority, serving as a member of the central committee and as a delegate to county and congressional conventions. In November, 1899, he sold his farm and engaged in the real estate business in Montpelier and continued so employed until January 9, 1904, when he was appointed auditor to fill out a vacancy and his term expired October 16, 1905. He holds membership in the organizations of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. On October 31, 1889, he was married to Miss Sarah B. Glover, the daughter of Henry and Hannah R. Glover. Two children have been born to George E. Morris and wife, named Elsworth and Warren B.

JACOB A. MOWRY, a successful farmer of St. Joseph township, was born in Seneca county, O., July 31, 1858. He is the son of Levi and Mary A. (Kline) Mowry, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. His grandfather, Daniel Mowry, a native of Pennsylvania, removed first to Seneca county, O., and afterwards to Williams county in 1867, where he died in 1870. He was twice married. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Jacob Kline, a native of Germany. Levi Mowry was reared on his father's farm, receiving a fair common school education. After coming to Ohio he first resided in Seneca county and then removed to Williams county, locating on a farm which he bought there. He was drafted into the Union army, but escaped service by furnishing a substitute. Selling his farm he returned to Seneca county and in 1867 removed a second time to Williams county, locating on a farm near Edgerton. Two years later he bought the farm in St. Joseph township, where he now resides. In politics he is identified with the Repubilcan party and with his wife, who died March 17, 1905, a member of the Evangelical Association. They have had nine children, eight of whom are still living. Jacob A. Mowry grew to manhood on his father's farm, being eight years old when he came to Williams county, and received a fair common school education in the schools of his home county. For several years he resided in DeKalb county, Ind., where he followed the occupation of farming. In 1884 he bought the farm on which he now lives. In politics he is an ardent Republican and with his wife a member of the Evangelical Association. On March 11, 1880, he was wedded to Miss Catherine Hunter, born in Williams county on December 8, 1860, the daughter of Daniel I. and Elizabeth (Jennings) Hunter. Daniel I. Hunter is the son of William and Lucy (Gardner) Hunter, the former born in 1801 and the latter in Salisbury, Montgomery county, New York, in 1800. William Hunter was a farmer by occupation and in 1829 removed to St. Joe county, Mich., where he was wedded in 1822, and of his six children four are living. He died in Defiance county, aged thirty-nine and one-half years. Daniel J. Hunter was born in Henry county, O., December 31, 1828. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. For some time he carried on horseback the United States mails from Denmark, O., to Defiance, O., and Lima, Ind., his brother, John W., serving in the same capacity for nearly three years. Then he bought a farm of forty-six acres and gave his attention to farming. In politics he is a Republican and with his wife a member of the Evangelical Association. In 1854 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Jennings, born in Carroll county, O., in 1830, the daughter of Peter and Catherine (Rainsburg) Jennings, the former born in New Jersey in 1802 and the latter in Pennsylvania in 1806. They came to DeKalb county, Ind., in 1843, where she died in February, 1881. Mr. Jennings surviving her eleven years, died in Williams county on the farm belonging to Mr. Hunter, in 1892. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living. Daniel J. Hunter and wife, the latter of whom died October 6, 1902, aged seventy-one years, were the parents of six children. They are: Peter J., born January 5, 1855; William J. (deceased), born May 5, 1857; Sarah Catherine, born December 8, 1860, the wife of Jacob A. Mowry; George W., born December 31, 1862; Mary Phoebe, born July 28, 1864, the wife of Henry Wellington; Della J., born December 28, 1866, the wife of George Richard, a farmer of St. Joseph township. To Jacob A. Mowry and wife six children have been born. They are: Charles Elsworth, the eldest, was born in DeKalb county, Ind., November 2, 1881, and received a fair education in the public schools and in the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind. He has taught school for the past five years. Virgil Loy, the second child, was born May 1, 1884, educated in the public schools, and for the past three years has been engaged in teaching. Albert Aaron was born June 17, 1887, and died September 27, 1889. Etta May was born January 5, 1890, and passed the Boxwell examination at the age of fifteen years. Wallace Gilbert was born May 4, 1893; Samuel Orin, April 17, 1896.

FREDERICK GEORGE MYERS has resided on his fine little farm property in Brady township for more than half a century, and is one of the honored pioneer citizens of Williams county, standing representative of that sterling manhood which so typified those who assumed the burdens and strenuous labors involved in the reclaiming of the wild and heavily timbered lands of this section to a condition of productivity, manifesting that energy and enterprise which are ever worthy of considerate study and practical emulation. Mr. Myers has little available data concerning his ancestry, which is of stanch German extraction, both of his parents having died when he was a mere child. He was born in the city of Baltimore, Md., on the 8th of November, 1826, and is a son of George and Christina Myers, the father having been killed while assisting in the building of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. After the death of his parents Mr. Myers was brought to Ohio, and he was reared in the home of Dr. A. W. Shipley, of Licking county, with whom he remained until he had attained the age of nineteen years, having been afforded the advantages of the common schools of the locality and period, while he learned the trade of carpenter in his youth. In 1847 he came to Williams county and located in Brady township, where he worked at his trade a number of years, being economical and industrious and finally feeling justified in purchasing his present farm, in 1852. The place comprises forty-two acres of excellent land, and he cleared the same of its native timber, bringing it under a high state of cultivation, while he has made good improvements in the erection of substantial buildings, etc., so that he now has one of the valuable and attractive farms of the county and is enjoying that independence which is the just recompense for earnest and honest endeavor. In politics Mr. Myers was originally a Whig, but he found his abiding political faith in the principles of the Republican party, whose cause he has supported from the time of its organization to the present.

His course in life has been one marked by righteousness and thorough conscientiousness in all its relations, and both he and his wife, who have walked side by side down the pathway of life for more than fifty-five years, are worthy and valued members of the Christian church. November 25, 1849, Mr. Myers was married to Miss Ann Eliza Chambers, who was born in Richland county, O., February 27, 1828, being a daughter of John and Mary (Combs) Chambers, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in the State of New Jersey. They were numbered among the pioneers of Richland county, O., where the mother died many years ago, while the father passed the closing years of his life in Iowa, where he died on the 29th of March, 1885, at the patriarchal age of ninety years, eight months and eleven days. To Mr. and Mrs. Myers have been born five children, concerning whom the following data is consistently entered: Edwin Harrison, who married Cynthia McLaughlin, resides in Lenawee county, Mich.; William Randolph, who married Sarah Lillian Brott, resides in Allegan county, Mich.; Mary Ann Christina is the wife of Joseph Francis Smith and they likewise reside in Allegan county, Mich.; Esther Minerva Jane is the wife of Emerson Benjamin Eyer, who has charge of the operation of Mr. Myers' homestead farm; and Clara Luella Eunice is the wife of Wilford A. Rozell, of Kalamazoo, Mich. Mrs. Myers died on July 24, 1895, and is buried in the Floral Grove cemetery in Brady township.

JAMES A. NEIL, a prominent builder and contractor of Montpelier, is the representative of an old and highly respected family that has for more than fifty years been prominently identified with Williams county, its members having always ranked among the foremost and most progressive citizens of the county. The Neil family is of Irish origin, and was established in this country at a very early date, by Joseph Neil, the great-grandfather of James A. Neil, the subject of this sketch. When he emigrated to America he settled in Pennsylvania. His son, John Neil, was born in the Keystone State and was married to Miss Alice Lightfoot, also of Pennsylvania. In 1828 John Neil removed to Ohio, locating in Wayne county. Having learned the carpenter trade, he followed that occupation in connection with farming the balance of his natural life. His wife having died in 1832, he married a second time and died in 1865. To his first marriage there were born eight children, among whom was Joseph, the father of James A. Neil. Joseph Neil was born in York county, Pa., September 8, 1827. He was reared on his father's farm in Wayne county and received his education in the country schools. While on the farm he learned the carpenter trade, and when eighteen years old he left the parental roof to follow that avocation. In 1849 he came to Williams county and located in Bridgewater township on land purchased by him, where he followed carpentering and farming until 1887, the date of his removal to Montpelier. For forty years he was an active minister of the Church of God, giving up the work of preaching the Gospel about eight years ago. In 1849 he was wedded to Miss Sarah Ann Bowen, born in Richland county, O., on November 15, 1827, the daughter of Robert and Sarah A. Bowen, who died April 8, 1904. To this marriage the following children were born: Isaiah S.; Harriet E., first the wife of Ezekiel Smith and afterwards married to Andrew Miller of Bridgewater township; Jane, the wife of Eli Ault, who died in Hardin county, O.; Alice, now Mrs. Warren Utter, of Bridgewater township; Joseph A., deceased; James A.; Elizabeth, deceased; Sherman G., a minister of Montpelier; Maggie C., and Robert Eli, deceased. James A. Neil was born in Madison township, Williams county, O., on February 21, 1861. He grew to manhood on the parental farm and was educated in the district schools. Having learned the carpenter trade while on the farm, he followed that avocation for some years. From Madison township he removed with the family to Bridgewater township. After his marriage, in 1882, he worked for two years on his father's farm, when he removed to Meade county, Kan., where he entered government land. In 1888 he returned to Williams county and took up his residence in Montpelier, where he now resides. Having traded his Kansas land for the Montpelier opera house, he conducted that business for about five years, in the meantime engaging in building and contracting. In 1893 he formed a partnership with a Mr. Dargitz, and since that time the firm of Neil & Dargitz has constructed the principal business and residence properties in Montpelier. In addition to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Florence township Mr. Neil owns three substantial houses in Montpelier. He is actively identified with the Knights of Pythias, being at present Chancellor Commander of the Montpelier Lodge. On March 12, 1882, he was wedded to Miss Viola Reader, born in Jefferson township on December 16, 1861, the daughter of George and Sarah Reader. Leslie R., the only child of these parents, was born May 30, 1883, and is engaged in business with his father.

JOHN I. NEWCOMB, M. D., one of the leading representatives of the medical profession in West Unity, was born on the homestead farm, near Shelby, Richland county, O., on the 15th of September, 1857, being a son of Robert and Sarah (Stock) Newcomb, the former of whom was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 24, 1826, and the latter was born in Pennsylvania, in 1829. John Newcomb, grandfather of the Doctor, passed his entire life in England, as did also his wife, who attained to the venerable age of ninety-eight years. John Stock, the maternal grandfather, was one of the pioneers of Richland county, O., where his death occurred. Robert Newcomb was reared to manhood in his native land, where he secured a good common school education and where he remained until 1851, when he came to America; and in the following year he located in Richland county, O., where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1868, when he came to Williams county and settled on a farm in Millcreek township, and about half of the place was reclaimed from the native forest under his direction. He is now (1905) living retired, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife died in March, 1888, and of their four children three are living. The father is a stanch Democrat in his political proclivities and is a member of the German Lutheran church, as was also his wife. Dr. Newcomb passed his boyhood days on the farm, and was about ten years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county, of the advantages of whose public schools he fully availed himself, having been a member of the first class graduated in the high school at Pioneer. Having determined to adopt the profession of medicine as his vocation, he then entered the medical department of the clelebrated University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1888, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine from this institution, whose diploma stands in evidence of the most thorough technical training. He began the practice of his profession in Evansport, Defiance county, O., where he remained until 1892, and then located in West Unity, where his success has been of unequivocal order and his support of a representative character. He has been the architect of his own fortune, and sincerity, integrity and self-reliance have been the steppeing stones to his marked success. He is the owner of two good farms in Williams county, besides an attractive residence property in his home town. The Doctor is a member of the Williams County Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society and the Tri-State Medical Society, and he is identified with the Masonic fraternity and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also Mrs. Newcomb. The political faith of Dr. Newcomb is that represented in the tenets of the Democratic party, and though he takes a loyal interest in public affairs, especially those of a local order, he has never desired official preferment. He is, however, a valued member of the board of education of West Unity. September 12, 1881, Dr. Newcomb wedded Miss Minnie Stevens, who was born and reared in Fulton county, being a daughter of Charles L. and Hannah (Masters) Stevens, of Wauseon. Of their seven cihldren four are living: Leland Guy, Raynor Rowe, Paul Barkley, and Charles Robert. Clyde W., the first born, died at the age of eleven years and eight months; Ethel Marie and Mary died in infancy.

JOHN NIEDERAUR, a noted citizen of Bryan, O., was one of Williams county's substantial business men, who spent the best part of his life in furthering every means at his command to advance the interests of Bryan and Williams county. He came of stanch German ancestry and was born in Bavaria, Germany, May 28, 1833. He was one of five children born to John D. and Barbara (Young) Niederaur. In 1851 he landed in New York City and for a time worked at the trade of cabinet making. He soon decided to go West and we next find him employed at Mansfield, O., then at Tiffin, where his parents and the rest of the family joined him from the "Father Land." In the spring of 1855 he and a brother came to Williams county and located at Bryan, to which place the remainder of the family soon moved. Here John D. Niederaur, his father, died in 1879, aged seventy-five years, his wife having died nine years before at the age of sixty-five years. Their children were: John, Philip, Charles, Jacob and Barbara. Upon locating in Bryan the sons all engaged in cabinet making, but soon after John branched off and took up carpentering, which he successfully followed for some years. In 1866 he and his brother, Philip, embarked in the planing mill business, equipping their plant with modern machinery throughout, and from the start the enterprise proved very successful. From the spring of 1855 to the day of his death in St. Vincent's Hospital, Toledo, O., September 1, 1905, he was closely identified with the development of Bryan and vicinity. No man in his day was more sincere and honest than John Niederaur. He was ever ready to assist those in distress and to lend a hand in any enterprise that would aid Bryan. While he never united with any religious denomination, still he always freely gave to the various church organizations when solicited. After years of perseverance and industry in Bryan, and when it seemed that he had many more years of usefulness before him, he was suddenly stricken with the disease that ended his long and useful career. The most skilled physicians were consulted, but the seal of death was present in every diagnosis of his case. His ailment was sudden and of such a malignant type that within two months from the first symptom he passed away. He was not only actively identified with the business interests of Bryan, but took time to serve the community in various capacities. He served as a member of the city council of Bryan four years and was a member of Bryan Lodge No. 215, F. & A. M., of Bryan, and was regarded by his brethren as a zealous worker in the order. He united with the lodge January 20, 1870, passed April 20, 1870, and was raised July 11, 1870. He was highly esteemed by all of his lodge members and was ever ready to lend assistance to the sick and afflicted. He was also connected with the Building and Loan association from its organization, being its president up to 1900, and on the board up to his death. He was also president of the Union Trust and Savings Bank up to his death. When a man of the type of John Niederaur passes away it is certainly a great loss to the community, and it is to be hoped that those who may read these lines may find in this noble man's life much to emulate. In 1854 John Niederaur was married to Miss Margaret Guffney, of Tiffin, O. To this union one child, Flora A., was born, February 20, 1855, and she is now the wife of Charles Wagner, cashier of The Union Trust and Savings Bank, of Bryan, who was born at Massillon, Stark county, O., June 6, 1857. His parents were Mathias and Magdalena (Millamann) Wagner, both of whom were natives of Germany, the father having been born in Baden and the mother in Alsace. They were married at Massillon, where Mathias Wagner was engaged for many years at blacksmithing and horse-shoeing. He still resides in Massillon, although retired from active business. Charles Wagner was reared in Massillon, where he received his public school education. His first work was as a clerk in a grocery store, followed by his appointment as a manager of a similar establishment. Later he learned blacksmithing, which occupation he successfully followed for some years in Massillon. In the spring of 1880 he came to Bryan and formed a partnership with William Aungst in the horse-shoeing and general repairing business, which he conducted for about two years. Next he became foreman in the sash and door department of the Niederaur & Brother planing mill. In 1898 he was elected secretary of the Bryan Building and Loan Association and filled that position for about two and a half years, when he resigned and resumed his old position in the planing mill. On January 1, 1903, he was elected cashier of the Union Trust and Savings Bank, which position he is at present filling. On October 27, 1881, he was married to Miss Flora A. Niederaur, daughter of John and Margaret (Guffney) Niederaur. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have no children. Mr. Wagner is a member of Bryan Lodge No. 221, K. of P., and has filled the office of treasurer in that lodge since becoming a member. He was a member of and connected with the Bryan city band for a period of twenty years.

DANIEL P. NIHART, a successful and highly respected farmer of Melbern, was born in Center township, January 8, 1840. He is the son of Jacob and Anna May (Frock) Nihart, both natives of Pennsylvania, where the former was born in 1795, and the latter in 1807. His grandparents were Conrad and Elizabeth (Kreiger) Nihart, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Conrad Nihart when a boy emigrated to America with his parents and located first in Pennsylvania, where he was reared, educated and married. Then in 1840 they removed to Holmes county, O., where he died. After his death his widow removed to Williams county. His maternal grandfather was Michael Frock, a native of Pennsylvania. After his marriage he removed to Coshocton county, O., where both he and his wife died. Jacob Nihart came to Williams county in 1837 and bought the farm of eighty acres on which the subject of this sketch now resides. At one time he was the owner of three hundred acres of fine land. In politics he was a Democrat until the organization of the Republican party, when he espoused the cause of the latter. With his wife he was a member of the English Lutheran church. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are yet living. He died in 1870, aged seventy-five years, and his widow in 1894, aged eighty-seven years. Daniel P. Nihart grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools. It has fallen to his lot to clear many acres of land, and for the past twenty years he has dealt extensively in live stock, shipping his purchases to all parts of the country. During the past eight years he has given his time and attention almost exclusively to his shipping interests, in which he has a partner, John A. Brown. He owns two hundred and ninety acres of land in Center township and four acres in Melbern, cut out of the eighty acres in the old homestead. The eastern part of Melbern has been built on this land. Other tracts of land formerly owned by him he sold. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, having served as land appraiser in his township. In 1869 he was wedded to Miss Alice Gabriel, a native of Wayne county and the daughter of John and Catherine (Brenizer) Gabriel, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Wayne county in an early day and then to Williams county in 1863, where the father died in 1889 His widow is now a resident of Edgerton. To Daniel P. Nihart and wife two children were born. Orrin H. Nihart, M. D., the elder, is the subject of the succeeding review where proper mention is made of his successful career. Charles A., born in April, 1872, was educated at Wauseon, O., and Valparaiso, Ind. He is a manufacturer of shingles in the state of Washington, where he married Miss Gussie Milnee. Mrs. Nihart, mother of Orrin H. and Charles A., having died in 1884, Daniel P. Nihart, in 1886, married Miss Alice Bell, a native of Holmes county and the daughter of William and Margaret (Shipley) Bell, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. William Bell was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the English Lutheran church. They are the parents of eight children, six of whom are still living. Mr. Bell died in Wayne county in 1884 and his widow the following year.

ORRIN HOWARD NIHART, M. D., a prominent and highly successful physician of Edon, was born in Center township, Williams county, O., on October 17, 1871. He is the son of Daniel P. Nihart, mention of whom is made in the preceding sketch. Dr. O. H. Nihart grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools of his native township and the Wauseon Normal. For the next three years he followed the honorable avocation of teaching. He then entered the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., and, in 1895, graduated in the scientific and classical course of the Valparaiso, Ind., Normal. After completing his literary education he spent two years in the medical department of the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, and on April 16, 1898, graduated from the Starling Medical college at Columbus. Three days after graduating he began the practice of medicine at Edon, O., where he has since built up a large and lucrative practice. In politics the doctor is an enthusiastic Republican. In 1898 he was elected coroner of Williams county, and in 1901, to the state legislature as the representative of Williams county. Two years later he was re-elected to the same office. Doctor Nihart is a member of Edon Lodge, No. 474, Free and Accepted Masons, of Edon Lodge, No. 644, Knights of Pythias, and Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On April 11, 1898, he was wedded to Miss Lulu I. Ewan, born in Center township, December 6, 1871, the daughter of A. H. and Eliza (Stahl) Ewan, both natives of Williams county. A. H. Ewan is a son of Isaac Ewan, a son of David and Edith (Townsend) Ewan, who came to Williams county from Carroll county, O., on October 24, 1842, where both lived and died, being buried at Lick Creek, this county. Isaac Ewan was a farmer by occupation and followed farming continuously, excepting the five years he was engaged in the shoe business at Butler. In politics he was identified with the Republican party and in religious matters with the Christian church. He died at Bryan in 1900. His wife, Elizabeth Gilbert, was born in Portage county, O., on June 6, 1824, and was the daughter of Walter and Hannah (Calvin) Gilbert, the latter a native of Connecticut. They came to Williams county in 1842 and settled in Center township, but spent their last days in Michigan. A. H. Ewan was born in Center township in 1850 and educated in the high schools of Williams Center and Edgerton. He was a farmer by occupation and a Republican in politics. His wife, born in Williams county in 1852 and educated in the public schools, was the daughter of Simon Peter and Catherine (Hoyer) Stahl, both natives of Wayne county, Pa., who came to Williams county about 1842, where both died. The wife of A. H. Ewan died in 1880. To them two children were born, as follows: O. E. Ewan, superintendent of the Edon High School, and Mrs. O. H. Nihart. The paternal grandfather of the wife of Dr. Nihart was a teacher in pioneer days, teaching for a salary of one dollar and fifty cents a week. To Dr. Nihart and wife one daughter has been born, Alitza, born August 21, 1903.

WILLIAM A. NIHART, a prominent farmer of Center township, was born at Edgerton, August 11, 1862, and is a descendant of one of the oldest families in the county. His grandparents, Jacob and Mary (Frock) Nihart, were natives of Holmes county, O., but in 1840 removed to Williams, settling in Center township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. John Nihart, the father of William A., was born in Holmes county, came with his parents to Williams, where he grew to manhood and married Miss Martha Karnes. To this union were born the following children: William A., the subject of this sketch; Jessie B., wife of Josiah H. Childers, now residing in Indian Territory; Mary A., now Mrs. William Holden, living in Indiana; Theodore F., now a resident of the state of Missouri; George H., residing in Edgerton; Anna, now Mrs. Ernest Wines, residing near Waterloo, Ind.; Emma V., living with the subject; John H., now living in Center township, and Walter K., attending medical college in Detroit. John Nihart was a prominent figure in the affairs of Williams county in his day and was for a number of years a justice of the peace. He died in 1901, his wife having passed to her eternal rest in 1882. William A. Nihart was reared on the farm, received a good common school education and adopted agriculture as a pursuit. Politically he is a Republican, and the respect in which he is held by his fellow-citizens may be seen in the fact that he now holds the office of township trustee. He is a member of St. Joseph Lodge, No. 608, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in other ways is identified with the progress of the community. On December 22, 1887, he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah, daughter of Peter and Sarah Suffel, old and honored residents of St. Joseph township, where Mrs. Nihart was born and reared. Mr. and Mrs. Nihart have had two children born to them, both now deceased. Emma M. died when three days old and John W. lived to the age of one year and nineteen days.

HIRAM B. OBERLIN has the distinction of being another of the sterling citizens who have assisted in the development of the agricultural resources of Williams county, and he is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred acres in Jefferson township. Mr. Oberlin was born in Holmes county, O., on the 7th of October, 1843, and is a son of Jacob and Rosanna (Lotzbaugh) Oberlin, the former a native of Stark county, O., and the latter of Franklin county, Pa. The Oberlin family was founded in Stark county in the early pioneer era, and there Jacob Oberlin was reared to maturity and married, while he removed thence to Holmes county about the year 1838, purchasing eighty acres of land, of which a portion had been cleared, and there continued his residence until 1854, when he disposed of his holdings and came to Williams county, settling in Section 25, Jefferson township, where he secured a quarter section of land, upon which a small clearing had been made and a log cabin and barn had been erected. He continued the development and improvement of this homestead, on which he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, both having been consistent members of the Reformed church and having richly merited the high esteem in which they were held. Of their seven children four are deceased—Amanda, Maria, Mary and Alice—while those surviving are: Hiram B., to whom this sketch is dedicated; Orlando, a prosperous farmer of Jefferson township; and Milton, likewise a successful farmer of the same township. In the log school house of the pioneer days Hiram B. Oberlin secured his early educational training, attending school during the brief winter terms and assisting in the arduous work of the home farm during the remaining months of the year. He remained at the parental home until he had attained the age of eighteen years, and thereafter farmed for two years on rented land. The insistent urge of patriotism prompted him to tender his services in defense of the Union when its integrity was placed in jeopardy through armed rebellion, and in October, 1864, he enlisted as a private in Company F, One Hundred and Eighty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he proceeded to Nashville, Tenn.; and he thereafter assisted in the construction of nine different forts on the Cumberland river, remaining in service eleven months and then receiving his honorable discharge. He participated in no important engagements, owing to the nature of the work to which he was assigned. In 1864 Mr. Oberlin purchased forty acres of his present attractive homestead farm, the land at that time being covered with the native timber and no improvements having been made. With the passing of the years he has reclaimed this tract to cultivation, has erected good buildings and has purchased and improved adjoining land, now having one hundred acres, while his success has been such that he has been able to materially assist his two sons in starting their independent careers as farmers. He has devoted his attention to diversified agriculture and to the raising of an excellent grade of live stock, and is recognized as one of the progressive farmers and public-spirited citizens of the county. In politics he is stanchly aligned as a supporter of the principles and policies of the Republican party, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Brady township, while Mrs. Oberlin is a member of the Reformed church, in which faith she was reared. October 9, 1864, Mr. Oberlin was united in marriage to Miss Malissa Snear, who was born and reared in Richland county, O., a daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann Snear, who came to Williams county in 1864 and settled in Pulaski township, where they passed the remainder of their lives, Mr. Snear having been a representative farmer of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Oberlin have two sons, Sylvester C. and Festus A., both of whom are successful farmers of Jefferson township.

ROBERT OGLE, who resides upon and owns the old homestead farm on which he was born, in Superior township, is a scion of one of the well known and honored pioneer families of Williams county, with whose history the name has been identified for nearly seventy years, and the original settlement was made in the State by his paternal grandparents, less than a decade and a half after the admission of Ohio to the Union. The family is of English extraction, and Robert Ogle, the grandfather, came from England to America and first located in Pennsylvania, where his principal vocation was that of millwright, though he had marked facility in various other lines of mechanical work. He came with his family to Ohio in an early day and located in Carroll county, being one of the pioneers of that section, and there he remained until 1836, when he took up his abode in Williams county. In the following year he leased a tract of land in Superior township and turned his attention to farming, with which he continued to be identified until his death, having accumulated a good property before his demise, which event occurred in April, 1852, at which time he was an incumbent of the office of county commissioner. He was a man of forceful and sterling individuality and wielded no little influence in local affairs. He was a stanch adherent of the Democratic party, and for many years was an elder in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife also was a devoted member, her maiden name having been Julia Ann Burns. Thomas Ogle, father of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born in Carroll county, O., in 1818, and was there reared and educated. He accompanied his parents on their removal to

Williams county, as noted. He devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and was a man of fine attributes of character, commanding the unqualified esteem of all with whom he came in contact. He died in November, 1852, in the very prime of his manhood, and his widow still survives him, in her eighty-first year. He was a Democrat in his political proclivities and his religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church. He married Miss Jerusha Clark, daughter of Horatio and Eliza (Bailey) Clark, of Huron county, O., and they became the parents of four children: Julia Ann, who died in infancy; Robert, who is the subject of this review; Eliza, who is deceased, and Mary Ann, who is the wife of Frank Lyons, of Bucyrus, O. The venerable mother now resides at Bucyrus, O. Robert Ogle, to whom this sketch is dedicated, was born on his present homestead, in Section 31, Superior township, on the 22nd of July, 1846, and after duly availing himself of the advantages afforded in the district schools he continued his studies in the high school at Bryan. At the age of seventeen years he abandoned his school work to go forth in defense of the Union, whose integrity was in jeopardy through armed rebellion. August 13, 1863, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Ninth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, in which he was later promoted to the office of sergeant, and with which he saw active service, participating in a number of spirited engagements, the most prominent of which are here noted, with respective dates: Florence, Ala., April 13, 1864; Center Star, May 16, 1864; Rosseau's raid in Alabama, July 11-22; East Point, Ga., August 30; Waynesboro, Ga., December 4; near Savannah, Ga., February 2, 1865; Aiken, S. C., February 11; Waynesboro, February 22; Monroe's Crossroads, N. C., March 10, Averysboro, March 16; and Raleigh, April 13, 1865. He had charge of the advance guard in the last skirmish between the armies of Sherman and Johnston near Chapel Hill, N. C. He was mustered out with his company on the 20th of July, 1865, and duly received his honorable discharge, after which he returned to his home in Williams county, where he has ever since been actively identified with farming and stock-growing. His fine landed estate comprises three hundred acres, is maintained under a high state of productivity and it has excellent improvements of a permanent order, including an attractive residence. In political matters Mr. Ogle is a stalwart Republican, taking an active concern in party affairs and being one of the party leaders in his township. He has served in the offices of township trustee and school director, and in 1888-9 was the representative of his county in the Sixty-eighth general assembly of the legislature of the State, where he made an excellent record. Both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Eagle Creek, and he is a member of its board of trustees. May 19, 1868, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ogle to Miss Margaret Hoverstock, daughter of George and Mary Hoverstock, of Superior township. Following is a brief record concerning the five children of this union: George, who is a farmer of Superior township, married Miss Louise Bailey, and they have one son, Robert; Alma is the wife of Henry Pressler, of Fairbury, Illinois, and they have four children, Ruth, Leland, Beatrice and Harold; Blanche is the wife of Orville Grose, of Superior township, and they have one child, Kermit; Ray is deceased, and Herbert is attending school in Angola, Ind.

WILLIAM HENRY PALMER, a prominent manufacturer of Edon, is a native of Florence township, having been born two miles west of Edon on March 27, 1852. He is the son of Cyrenous and Elizabeth (Richey) Palmer, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. Cyrenous Palmer came to Williams county in the forties, where he purchased and cleared a farm of eighty acres. In addition to this farm he owned one in Steuben county, Ind. In politics he was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Christian church. Before removing to Ohio he married in his native State and by that marriage became the father of five children, only one of whom is now living. His first wife having died he married a second time and reared a family of three children, two sons and one daughter, all of whom are still living. He died in 1864, aged sixty-four years, and his widow survived him thirty-five years, dying in Kansas in 1899, aged seventy-five years. William Henry Palmer was reared on the old homestead and educated in the public schools of Florence township. He worked on the farm until he was eighteen years old, when he learned the carpenter trade and followed the occupation of contractor and builder until 1899, when he engaged in the manufacture of church furniture, kitchen cupboards, cabinets and wardrobes, under the name of Edon Furniture Manufacturing Company, an enterprise that has been remarkably successful from the very beginning. In 1904 the company purchased a saw-mill and is now prepared to saw its own lumber. In politics Mr. Palmer is a Republican. He takes a deep interest in any and every enterprise that concerns the welfare of his own town and for some years served on the town council. He is a charter member of Edon Lodge, No. 644, Knights of Pythias, and with his family attends the Methodist Episcopal church. On September 18, 1873, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Anna Jenette Stewart, born in Elmore, O., and the daughter of Joseph Stewart, who died near Fort Wayne, Ind. Two sons were born to this marriage. Ellis L., the elder, was born July 20, 1878, and was educated in the Edon high school. For four years he was railroad station agent and telegraph operator at Edon, then he taught in the county schools for two years, and followed that by working for one year as agent of the Equitable Life Assurance Company, of New York. Since then he has been engaged in the restaurant business at Edon. His wife was Miss Alice Paul, a daughter of James Paul, of Bryan. Leslie E., the younger, was born on March 24, 1880, and was educated in the Edon high school, the Valparaiso, Ind., Normal University and the Davis Business College, of Toledo, O. After serving as principal of the Edon high school for four years he entered the employ of the Wabash-Portland Cement Company, of Stroh, Ind., as bookkeeper. His wife was Miss Sallie Hines, the daughter of C. L. and Lamissa Hines, of Florence township.

ALFRED ROYDEN PARKER, a farmer and teacher of Northwest township, is a native of Bridgewater township, where he was born on February 15, 1875. His great-grandparents, Joseph Seeley and Julia (Phillips) Parker, both natives of Pennsylvania, were early settlers of Ashland county, O., where both ended their days. Samuel and Eleanor (Bailey) Parker, the grandparents of Alfred R. Parker, were both natives of Ashland county, where they spent their days. His maternal grandparents, David and Lydia (Yerda) Bloom, both natives of Northumberland county, Pa., removed to Williams county, O., in 1855. He died during the Civil war and his widow is now a resident of Bridgewater township. Laban and Rebecca (Bloom) Parker, the parents of Alfred R. (the former born in Ashland county, O., on February 2, 1852, and the latter in Pennsylvania in 1854), came to Williams county in 1860, and located on a farm of forty acres in Northwest township in 1885, where both still reside. He is a Republican in politics and has served as township trustee two terms. In religious belief he and his wife are affiliated with the United Brethren church. To this union, which was solemnized in 1873, there have been born the following children: Alfred R., Seeley C., Mary, Elton, Orpha, Edna and Lulu. Seeley C. served as a private and sergeant in the Spanish-American war. Alfred R. Parker was educated in the public schools of his home county and the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind. In addition to farming he is actively and successfully engaged in teaching. In politics he is identified with the Republican party and he is now serving as township clerk. In the work of the Grange he takes an active part. He and wife, to whom he was married on November 8, 1899, are devoted members of the Eagle Creek Presbyterian church. Mrs. Parker, whose name in maidenhood was Miss Lola B. Ricketts, is the daughter of Samuel P. and Rebecca (Heiserman) Ricketts, of Northwest township, the former born in Seneca county, O., on August 18, 1847. Here he owns a farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres. Her grandparents were Thomas W. and Mary E. (Kime) Ricketts, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Virginia. William Ricketts, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Parker, removed from Fairfield county, O., to Seneca county and died there in 1870, aged seventy-seven years. The maternal grandfather of Samuel F. Ricketts was Samuel Kime, a native of Virginia, who came to Ohio in 1824, locating in Seneca county. Here he and his wife ended their days. To the marriage of Alfred R. Parker and wife no children have been born.

JUDGE PAYNE CALVIN PARKER, deceased, a pioneer of Williams county, was born in the city of London, England, February 28, 1793. He was the son of Calvin and Eliza (Payne) Parker. The Parker family came to America in 1794, when Judge Parker was in his first year, and settled in Pennsylvania, where his parents remained the balance of their days. In 1811 the Judge came west to what is now Northwestern Ohio, and located on eighty acres of land near Napoleon, which he proceeded at once to clear and cultivate. During this time he also practiced medicine and taught school. After a time he sold his land at Napoleon and removed to Defiance, where he practiced medicine and engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with Colonel Hunt, a pioneer merchant of Toledo. In 1836 Judge Parker removed to what afterwards became the town of Denmark, in Williams county, which town he and Colonel Hunt laid out. Here he engaged in trading with the Indians, and as the country was settled up, in the practice of his profession. Later he devoted all of his time to farming, which occupation he continued on his fine homestead near Edgerton the balance of his life. Judge Parker was very successful in business and used his large means freely in helping those in distress. Whenever there was a failure of crops he would send off for supplies, purchasing them with his own money, and distribute them among the needy. Many a bushel of corn and barrel of pork was distributed among the needy in and about the town of Denmark. He was at one and the same time preacher, elder, judge, physician, merchant and supervisor. The first school of that section was taught in his own home, and in time of much sickness his home became a hospital for the treatment of those who could not be properly treated elsewhere. While living at Defiance he was one of the three associate judges of the Williams county common pleas court, and he continued to serve in that capacity after Defiance was cut off. Soon after coming west Judge Parker was married at Waterville on the Maumee river, to Jane Hunter, a native of Painted Post, now Bath, N. Y., the daughter of John S. and Mary (Mulholland) Hunter, natives of Belfast, Ireland, where they were married. Jane Hunter, the wife of Judge Parker, was a noble woman and an angel of mercy in those pioneer days when neighborly assistance counted for so much. She was a devoted helpmate and took charge of all of Judge Parker's business in his absence. After completing her own housework, many is the time when she would spend the remainder of the day in cooking delicacies and distributing them among the sick and distressed. The weekly religious services were usually held at Judge Parker's, and on such occasions Mrs. Parker always prepared a surprise in the shape of a sumptuous meal, never to be forgotten by those in attendance. No one ever went from her door hungry, and the greatest pleasure of her life was in assisting those in distress. She was a devout Presbyterian and in those days began on Friday to cook and prepare everything so that there would be no work on Sunday, not even so much as the grinding of coffee. The Sabbath was regarded as a sacred day of rest and worship at the home of Judge Parker, and its observance was so strict that it has been said in jest, that Judge Parker wouldn't let his bees work on Sunday. An incident in the life of Judge Parker is the sojourn of Elijah Stoddard, a Presbyterian minister of Ithaca, N. Y., who came with his family to preach the gospel in the wilderness. He was accompanied not only by his family, but also by his brothers and their families. They all entered land in St. Joseph township. About one year after he came Rev. Stoddard took sick and died. The following are the names of the children of Judge Parker and wife: Cyrus and Robinson, both of whom died in infancy; Mary, who died single at the age of twenty-five years; Eliza, who died at the age of eight years; Harriet H., now Mrs. Long, of Bryan; Foreman E. and Aurelia A., twins, the former of whom died at the age of sixteen years, and the latter who married Dr. J. F. Stough and died in 1865; John P., Lucy J., Sophia M. and Ellen A., all of whom died in childhood. Harriet H. (Parker) Long was born on her father's farm on the Maumee river near Napoleon, October 15, 1828. She received a good education in the public and private schools of her home county and also attended a seminary in La Grange county, Ind. On September 4, 1856, she was married to the late Doctor George E. Long, one of the leading physicians and citizens of Williams county. To this marriage the following children were born: Mary J., who was born July 2, 1861, and died July 3, 1861; Parker, born October 11, 1864, a graduate of Davis Business College of Toledo, who followed the avocation of bookkeeping until his death on November 30, 1902. John P., the third and only remaining child, born January 1, 1866, was educated in the Bryan city schools and in Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., and embarked in the drug business in Bryan in 1894, the style of the firm being White & Long. Since the death of the senior partner in 1895, Mr. Long has been sole proprietor of the Long Drug Company, which drug business has been in the Long family for more than fifty years. On July 17, 1905, Mr. Long was married to Miss Anna, the daughter of the late A. J. Tressler, a well-known banker of Bryan.

ELWIN CADWELL PECK, a lawyer of fine ability, until recently was engaged in practice in the city of Bryan, where he held high rank at the bar of his native county and State. He was born in Northwest township, Williams county, O., on the 16th of March, 1864, and is a son of Chauncey S. and Mary (Smith) Peck, the former of whom was born in Utica, N. Y., July 10, 1826, while the latter was born in Hartford, Conn., October 13, 1829. Chauncey Sanford Peck was a son of Sanford and Harriet (Curtis) Peck, who were natives of New Haven, Conn., in which locality the original ancestors took up their abode prior to the war of the Revolution, having immigrated from England, and for several generations the family was identified principally with agricultural pursuits. The Smith family with which Mr. Peck is identified in the maternal line, is likewise of English extraction and was founded in America prior to the Revolution, locating first in Connecticut, whence representatives later removed to Vermont. Champlin Smith was born in Vermont in 1800, being the maternal grandfather of Mr. Peck, and his father sacrificed his life in the war of 1812. Champlin Smith removed from Vermont to Hartford, Conn., where he married Emily Wells, and about 1836 they came to Ohio and settled in Lorain county, near Elyria, where he was engaged in farming about eight years, then removing to Huron county. His wife having died while visiting her daughter in Illinois he passed the closing years of his life in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Peck, in Northwest township, Williams county, where he died in 1892, at the patriarchal age of ninety-two years. Sanford Peck early removed from New England to the state of New York, and after having been there engaged in farming for a number of years he came to Ashland county, O., where he died at the age of seventy-five years. His children were five in number. Chauncey Sanford Peck received a good common school education, having been about ten years of age at the time of his parents' removal from New York to Ohio, and after leaving school he was identified with farming and stock-growing in Huron county until he had attained to the age of twenty-five years. He then removed to Williams county and located in Northwest township, where he had a fine farm and where he devoted special attention to dealing in live stock for many years, his death occurring there in March, 1904. He was a stanch adherent of the Democratic party and was a man who ever commanded unqualified confidence and esteem, being upright and honorable in every relation of life. His devoted wife preceded him into eternal rest, her death having occurred in May, 1901. They had five children, namely: Boyd, who died in infancy; Sanford and Blinn, who are representative farmers of Northwest township; Elwin C., whose name initiates this sketch; and Frank, who resides in Montpelier, this county. Elwin C. Peck duly completed the curriculum of the public schools and then entered Hillsdale College, in Hillsdale, Mich., an institution to whose founding and upbuilding his paternal grandfather had been a liberal contributor, and after continuing his studies for a number of semesters in this college he was successfully engaged in teaching in the public schools of Williams county for two years. He then took up the study of law, finally entering the law department of the University of Cincinnati, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1892, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws and being duly admitted to the bar of his native State. His initial professional work was in association with the law firm of Parks & Barber of Toledo, and he later located in Montpelier, in his home county, where he was engaged in practice about six years, at the expiration of which he located in Bryan, the county seat, where he built up a representative business, both as an attorney and counsellor. He was associated in partnership with Charles E. Scott until the 1st of January, 1905, when the partnership was dissolved, and in August, 1905, Mr. Peck removed to Toledo, where he is now successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. Mr. Peck is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and he served nearly a year as prosecuting attorney of Williams county, having been appointed to fill a vacancy. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. On the 23d of December, 1900, Mr. Peck was united in marriage to Miss Ialeen Kelly, daughter of Edward and Mary (Manon) Kelly, of Montpelier, this county, and they have one daughter, Mary Carmen Peck.

SANFORD PECK, a successful farmer of Northwest township, Williams county, O., is a native of Northwest township, where he was born on December 5, 1852. His grandparents were Sanford and Harriet (Curtis) Peck, both natives of Connecticut, who removed to Ashland county, O., in pioneer days and there spent the remainder of their lives. Champlin and Emily Smith, his maternal grandparents, were early settlers of Lorain county, O., and in the latter part of his life Mr. Smith removed to Williams county. Here he died, his wife having died while on a visit to a daughter in Illinois. The parents of Sanford Peck were Chauncey and Mary (Smith) Peck, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut. Chauncey Peck came to Williams county, O., in 1852, locating in Northwest township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. From time to time he added to his original purchase until he owned a farm of four hundred and fifty-five acres. Much of this land had to be cleared by him, as it was heavily timbered. He was an extensive stock-dealer and shipper and was rated one of the best judges of live stock in Williams county. In politics he was identified with the Democratic party. Mr. Peck died on March 29, 1904, his wife having died May 16, 1901. To these parents there were born five children of whom four are still living, Boyd, the eldest, having died in infancy. Those living are: Sanford, Blinn, Elwin C. and Frank. Sanford Peck grew to manhood on the parental farm and was educated in the common schools of his native county. He is a farmer and thresher by occupation and owns one hundred and sixty-seven and one-half acres of fine land. In politics he is a Democrat and he has held the offices of constable, supervisor and tax collector. He is a member of Northwest Lodge, No. 722, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has been twice married. In 1875 he was wedded to Miss Emma Lamb of Williams county, and by her had two children, named Homer and Clara. Sometime after the heath of Mrs. Peck, he married Miss Cora Bechtol, daughter of William and Susan (Mehrling) Bechtol, both of German descent. They are both dead. Their family consisted of five sons and one daughter (the latter being Mrs. Peck), all of whom were born and reared in Northwest township. To Mr. and Mrs. Peck have been born two children. They are: Blanche and Goldie, both at home with their parents.

JOHN WESLEY PEW, one of the well-known and substantial citizens of Montpelier, was born on a farm in Superior township, just two and one-half miles southeast of Montpelier, in the geographical center of Williams county, on May 1, 1845. His paternal and maternal grandparents were among the pioneer settlers of Williams county. He is the son of Richard and Hannah (Starr) Pew, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Pennsylvania. Both are deceased, the father dying in September, 1865. To these parents there were born the following children: Ann E., the wife of Wilson Brubaker of Illinois; John Wesley; Joseph, deceased, who enlisted in the Third Ohio Cavalry and died in Columbus; William, a meat dealer of Montpelier; Elenora, now Mrs. Frank Fidler of Indiana; Albert and Arthur, twins, the former deceased. John Wesley Pew was reared on the farm in Superior township and educated in the public schools. He remained on the farm until his father's death, having practically had charge of it for some time before that sad event. By his father's will he was given the farm, with the proviso that he support his mother during her natural life. Before the Civil war he lived on a farm in Bridgewater township for four years. After working in the stock-raising business for Alfred Riley, he formed a partnership with him in that line, and they conducted the business successfully for many years. In 1889 he and Mr. Riley embarked in the elevator business in Montpelier. A year later he removed to town from the farm and has since resided there. In 1896 this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Pew retiring to engage by himself in the hay and grain business, in which he is still actively employed. He is a Republican in politics and holds membership in the Masonic fraternity and the Methodist Episcopal church. The maiden name of his wife was Agnes Allman, a native of Ohio. To this union there have been born the following children: Ralph, a resident of Ft. Wayne, Ind., who married Miss Orpha Travis, by whom he has two children, John Maxwell and Louisa; Cora, a stenographer, who has resided in Detroit for ten years; Carrie, the wife of Fenton Gall, an employee in the civil service department of the government at Washington, D. C. Mr. and Mrs. Gall are the parents of one daughter, Olive Agnes.

TAYLOR PRIEST, a thrifty and successful farmer of St. Joseph township, was born in Holmes county, O., August 24, 1849. He is the son of Levi and Ellen Priest, both natives of Holmes county. In 1851 they removed to Bryan, where the latter died the same year and the former in 1855. They were the parents of six children, of whom four are living. By his first wife Levi Priest had eight children, all deceased. Taylor Priest began life's battle by working first four years for William Ayers on a farm northwest of Bryan. Then for a like period he worked for H. H. Ensign. The next eleven years he was in the employ of Judge George Edward Long, serving five years on the four hundred-acre farm near Denmark, St.

Joseph township. Having carefully hoarded his earnings, he was enabled to buy a farm of forty acres in St. Joseph township, two miles north of Edgerton, to which he has added at different times thirty-six acres, making a total of seventy-six acres. By dint of hard, earnest work and rigid economy he has fully paid for his farm. This farm he has also fully equipped with all the necessary buildings. In politics he is identified with the Republican party, and he can boast of the fact that he has never aspired to public office. While extremely liberal in his religious views he has ever been ready and willing to aid any church calling upon him for assistance. On March 24, 1872, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Henry, born in Canton, O., February 15, 1845, the daughter of David and Catherine (Moore) Henry, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany. They were married in Stark county, O., and first removed from that county to Henry county and after two years to Williams county, where he died on the old homestead, four miles south of Stryker, February 21, 1863, aged forty-eight years. His widow, after her husband's death made her home in Stryker until within four weeks of her death, when she came to the home of Taylor Priest. She had always said that she wanted to die at his home, and when she took sick she requested to be carried on a cot to the home she longed to die in. She died March 8, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Henry were the parents of eight children, of whom four sons and two daughters are living. To Taylor Priest and wife four children have been born. They are: Emma, educated in the public schools, and the wife of William Stotze, formerly of St. Joseph township but now a resident of Edgerton; George Edward, a farmer; John Parker, a farmer, and Harriet Ellen, now the wife of Don Thompson and residing at Hicksville, O. All received a fair public school education.

ISAIAH W. PRESSLER.

ISAIAH W. PRESSLER, a prominent and successful attorney of Montpelier, Williams county, O., was born on the parental farm, in Richland county, O., near the village of Olivesburg, on January 15, 1864. He is of German descent, his great-grandfather having been born in Germany. His grandfather, Stephen Pressler, a native of Center county, Pa., was a miller by trade, who married in 1815 Susan Kuhns, a native of the same county. Emigrating to Ohio about the year 1820, they located in Richland county, entering the last piece of government land, subject for entry in that county. His wife died in 1860; he then disposed of his farm and in 1864 removed to Iowa, and soon after to the neighborhood of Winamac, Pulaski county, Ind., where he remained one year. His health failing, he disposed of his property there and returned to Richland county, O., dying there in the year 1866. Samuel Pressler, father of the subject of this sketch, was born on the ancestral farm in Richland county, where he grew to manhood. Learning the carpenter trade, he followed the double occupation of carpentering and farming until the year 1868, when he came to Williams county, where he located on a farm in Superior township, and there he has since resided. In religious matters he is identified with the Church of God. The lady of his choice for a helpmeet in life's journey was Miss Kezia C. Weir, a native of Stark county, O., whose great-grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, being one of the unfortunates who were captured by the British and imprisoned in one of their infamous prison ships in New York harbor. Mrs. Pressler died in August, 1898. To this marriage were born three sons: Isaiah W.; Hiram M., born July 22, 1865, now a practicing physician at Cullom, Livingston county, Illinois; and Henry A., born in Williams county, August 22, 1869, now a resident of Illinois, where he has practiced veterinary surgery in the village of Fairbury, Livingston county, since the year 1894. Isaiah W. Pressler grew to manhood on the homestead in Superior township and was educated in the public schools of the township, the Montpelier high school, the Fayette, O., Normal, the Normal University at Ada, O., and the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., in the meantime following the avocation of teacher. In 1894 he began the study of law in the Sprague Correspondence School, of Detroit, Mich. After graduating from this school he entered the law department of the Indiana Normal at Valparaiso, Ind., and in June, 1896, received the degree of LL.D. from that institution. On June 3d of that year he was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Indiana, and on June 9th, of the same year, passed the examination held by the Supreme Court at Columbus, O., and was admitted to practice by said court on June 11th. In November, 1896, he formed a partnership with J. V. Maier and for seven months practiced the profession at Goshen, Ind. On the dissolution of this firm, in 1897, he removed to Montpelier and, on September 15th, began the practice that he has since so successfully conducted. In addition to his law practice Mr. Pressler has done a large and lucrative real estate business. In 1898 he was appointed mayor of Montpelier, and it is needless to state that he performed the duties of that office with credit to himself as well as to the city. On November 7th, 1891, he was married to Miss Clara Phillips, a native of Superior township and a daughter of John Phillips. She died May 3rd, 1896, and on October 8th, 1901, Mr. Pressler was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Hays, daughter of James and Catharine Hays of Northwest township. Mrs. Pressler was born on the old homestead in Northwest

MARTHA A. PRESLER

township, on July 16th, 1869. She is of Irish descent, her grandparents all having emigrated from Ireland about the year 1816. She attended the district school in Northwest township until the age of fourteen, when she successfully passed the county examination and received license to teach school. After attending the Fayette Normal the following winter she began the occupation of teaching, in which she continued for ten years, having taught twenty-two terms. Mr. and Mrs. Pressler have a modern home on Main street in Montpelier, and a happy and successful career seems to be before them.

VOLNEY POWERS.—Still residing on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a part of which he bought forty-eight years ago when the land was covered with heavy timber and wholly unimproved, Volney Powers, of Quaker ancestry, is today recognized as one of the most successful and progressive farmers of Northwest township. He is the grandson of Josiah and Hannah Powers, the former a pioneer settler of Ontario county, N. Y., where he died, and the latter a native of New York, who removed to Steuben county, Ind., where she ended her days. His parents were Stephen and Mary Ann (Campbell) Powers, both natives of New York, the former born in Ontario county and the latter in Allegheny county. Stephen Powers grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in the common schools. In 1837 he removed from New York State to Indiana, locating on a tract of eighty acres of timbered land in Steuben county. This land he partly cleared and improved, and then sold it and bought one hundred and sixty acres in the same township, which he partly improved, and then selling this farm he purchased a larger tract of land in Clear Lake township, on which he was residing when the Civil war broke out. During that great conflict he served with credit as a private in Company A of the Forty-fourth Indiana volunteer infantry. In addition to farming he was quite active and very successful as a surveyor in Steuben county, and taught school during the winter for about fifty years. In politics he was a Democrat, holding for some time the position of surveyor of Steuben county. Later he removed to Antrim county, Mich., where he died on October 5, 1872, survived by his widow until February 7, 1883. Volney Powers was born in Steuben county, Ind., on March 17, 1838. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. This training was supplemented by the instruction that he received from his father. At the age of eighteen years he began to teach, following that occupation for seven terms. In 1858 he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Northwest township, to which during the Civil war period he added a like number of acres, making a total of one hundred and sixty acres in the farm. In answer to his country's call for defenders, he enlisted in the Seventh Michigan volunteer infantry, in which he served over two years, and then he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the First Michigan colored troops. Later he was promoted to first lieutenant and held that position until the close of the war. His command took part in the battle of Honey Hill, S. C., and in a number of skirmishes. In a skirmish at Swift Creek, S. C., he was wounded in the left hand. The fact that he was twice promoted, the first time from the ranks, proves that he was a brave soldier. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest, having served as township clerk, justice of the peace and notary public. He is a Republican and with his wife a member of the Presbyterian church. On April 18, 1866, he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mattie Kimmell, born in Richland county, O., July 27, 1848. She is the daughter of Adam and Eliza (Culbertson) Kimmell of Northwest township. Eight children have been born to these parents, all of whom are living. They are: Ellen, now Mrs. Emery Bunce; Viola, the wife of Lee E. Amidon, principal of the Iron Mountain, Mich., public schools; Oliver, a resident of Lawton, O. T.; Jennie, the wife of Henry Sines of Northwest township; Stephen A., of Northwest township; Vada, the wife of John Redfield, superintendent of schools at Willshire, O.; Clyde V., a graduate of Berkley high school, California, and now a student of Michigan University; and Mary, still at home.

JAMES F. REASONER, proprietor of a general store in Edgerton, is of Dutch descent and traces his ancestors back to the time of the settlement of New Netherlands. At that time two brothers of the Reasoner family came to what is now New York and there separated, one going South and the other locating in Dutchess county, where Talmond Reasoner, the grandfather of James F. Reasoner, was born in 1790. Talmond Reasoner removed to Millcreek township, Williams county, in 1837, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Alvordton. The fact that he filled several township offices proves that he took an active part in public affairs. He was the father of nine children, six sons and three daughters, named as follows: Joseph, Daniel, Jane, George, Peter, Mercia, Jacob, James B., and Elizabeth. The year 1864 records his death at Bryan. His father served in the Revolutionary war and took part in the battle of White Plains. When eighty-four years old he met with an accident that resulted in his death. Joseph, the eldest son of Talmond Reasoner, was a prominent man in his time, having taught school and having filled the office of commissioner of Williams county for a number of years. He served as justice of the peace of Millcreek and Franklin townships for twenty-eight years. Jacob, another son, and Mrs. Elizabeth Borden, a daughter, both residents of Adrian, Mich., are the only ones of the family now living. James B. Reasoner, the father of James F., grew to manhood on his father's farm near Alvordton and in 1849 went to California, where for two and one half years he worked with considerable success in the gold mines. Returning to Ohio he located at Bryan, where he conducted a hotel and livery business until his death in 1864, aged thirty-five years. James F. Reasoner, the subject of this sketch, was born in Bryan in 1864, and when four years old came to Edgerton, where he was reared and educated. As a boy be clerked for George Helwig and other parties for several years. In 1888 he started in business for himself at Edon and remained there seven years. Then he embarked in the general store business in Edgerton, in which he has been very successfully engaged for the past eight years. Mr. Reasoner is an enthusiastic Odd Fellow, doing all that he possibly can to strengthen the organization in his home city. His only sister, Mrs. Ada Lindermuth, resides at Brentwood, Ark. He married Miss Alice Mast, the daughter of John Mast, Sr., of Edgerton, and to this union has been born one child, Arthur, a lad of fifteen years who is a pupil in the public schools.

WILLIAM H. RICE, a prosperous farmer and prominent citizen of Northwest township, was born in Butler county, Pa., March 7, 1827. He is the son of John and Rachel (Lambert) Rice, both natives of Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Henry Rice, a native of Pennsylvania, was a valiant soldier in the war of 1812, and died in his native county. John Rice was a farmer, a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. He died in Butler county and his widow in Hillsdale county, Mich. William H. Rice was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county. Having learned the carpenter trade he followed that occupation for five years. In 1845 he removed to Medina county, O., and twelve years later he removed to Williams county, and located on a farm. In 1852 he purchased eighty acres of land and proceeded at once to clear and improve it, and several years later he erected a fine barn and a substantial house on this land. To his original purchase he, in 1872, added eighty acres, and later gave a like number of acres to his son Leander. In politics he was in early life a Democrat, but afterwards joined the ranks of the Republican party. At present, however, he is actively identified with the Populist party. In 1847 he was joined in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Matilda Reich, a native of Pennsylvania. Of the nine children that have been born to William H. Rice and wife seven died while quite young. Stephen married Miss Sophronia McClain and by her had four children, two of whom, Elby and Harry, are living. Stephen died in Williams county about 1880, and Leander, the only living child, is a resident of Minnesota, where he is engaged in general farming. He married Miss Emma Case and by her has had the following children: Charley, Annie, James, Clayton and Lewis Guy.

JOHN M. RICHARD, one of the venerable and highly esteemed citizens of Stryker, where he has maintained his home for more than two score years, is one of those valiant souls who have risen to a plane of independence through personal effort along legitimate avenues of industry and enterprise; and he is now living practically retired, enjoying that dignified repose which properly crowns a life of usefulness and honor. Mr. Richard is a native of France and was born on the 16th of August, 1824, being a son of Joseph and Rose

(Dudee) Richard, both of whom were born and reared in France, where the father followed the vocation of coal mining until 1832, when he immigrated with his family to America, the voyage being made on a sailing vessel and being fifty-five days in duration. The family disembarked in the city of New Orleans, whence they went to Cincinnati, later to Wellsville, Columbiana county, and finally to Stark county. There the father lived sixteen years, being variously employed, and he then, in 1848, came to Williams county, where he secured twenty acres of wild land in section 14. Springfield township, clearing this place of its native timber, while later he purchased a place of one hundred and sixty acres, and still later an adjoining eighty acres, at a cost of thirteen hundred dollars, this land having been partially reclaimed and having been improved with modest buildings. Joseph Richard continued to be actively engaged in farming on this place until 1853, when he traded it for an eighty acre farm on Brush creek in Springfield township, after which he sold the eighty acres and bought a farm of forty acres adjoining the village of Stryker, where he resided until 1857, when he sold it and resided for a number of years with John Chappius and Frank Flory (both of whom were his sons-in-law), after which he spent the remainder of his days with his daughter, Jane Brown, and died at her home in Stryker on June 19, 1884, his wife having died in Stark county, O., in 1847. Both were devoted members of the Catholic church. Of their six children John M. was the first born; Louise is the wife of Joseph Flory (deceased), and resides in German township, Fulton county; Virginia is the wife of John Chappius, who resides near Stryker; Jane, who is the widow of Frank Brown, likewise resides in Stryker; Sophia, who became the wife of John Meek, of Stryker, is deceased; and Josephine, who was the wife of Frank Flory, is deceased. John M. Richard was about eight years of age at the time of the family immigration to America, and his early educational advantages were very limited in scope, being confined to a brief attendance in a subscription school in Stark county, O. He remained at the parental home, assisting in providing for the family, until he was seventeen years of age, and then began an apprenticeship at the trade of carpenter and joiner, in Robertsville, Stark county, serving three years and becoming a skilled workman. Thereafter he followed his trade one year in Canton and Massillon, Stark county, after which he went to Pittsburg, Pa. Not being able to find profitable work there he went into Virginia, visiting various places, in search of employment, and finally securing work in Portsmouth, O., where he remained three months. He then passed four months in Cincinnati, after which he was in Louisville, Ky., for a short interval, later visiting Cairo, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo., in which latter city he was employed in the shipyards for three months. He passed the ensuing eight months in New Orleans, La., whence he returned to Cincinnati, and two months later returned to Stark county. In 1848 he came with his father to Williams county, shortly afterward going to Defiance, where he maintained his home until 1861, in the meanwhile having been employed on the Miami canal in the capacity of a carpenter for fully a decade. In 1861 Mr. Richard came to Stryker, where he has since maintained his residence, and where he has done a large amount of excellent work as a carpenter and joiner, having erected many buildings in this section, while he has also done considerable work as a millwright. He is a man who has worked indefatigably, and through this means he has accumulated a competency, being the owner of good property in Stryker, besides farm property in the county. In politics he is a Republican so far as national issues are concerned, but in local affairs he supports the men and measures approved by his judgment, regardless of partisan lines. To him is accorded the uniform respect and esteem of the community, and he stands as an exponent of useful and upright citizenship. In Defiance, this state, November 20, 1849, Mr. Richard was united in marriage to Miss Catherine A. Miller, who was born in Crawford county, O., and they have six children: Elizabeth resides in the city of Chicago; Ida is the wife of John Shaffer, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; John is a successful carpenter and builder of Stryker; Samuel is a resident of Bryan, and is a mover of buildings; Alvaro is a carpenter by vocation and resides in Stryker; and Claude remains at the parental home.

JOSEPH RIES, a successful farmer and dealer in live stock of Florence township, was born in Seneca county, O., on June 1, 1845. He is of German descent, his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Etcher) Ries, having both been born in Germany. His maternal grandfather was Frank Etcher, a native of Germany, who came to America, locating in Seneca county, O., in an early day. Here he spent the remainder of his days. Joseph Ries, Sr., emigrated to the United States and settled on a farm in Seneca county, where he carried on general farming until his death. He was a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Roman Catholic church. He died on March 25, 1892, aged seventy-eight years, and his widow in September, 1899, aged eighty-four years. Of the eight children born to them, two daughters and four sons are still living. Joseph Ries, Jr., was reared on a farm and received such an education as the common schools of Seneca county afforded in that early day. In 1867 he removed to Williams county and located on a farm of one hundred acres in Florence township. He at once began to clear this land and to bring it to a high state of cultivation. The buildings erected on it by him are of a substantial character, answering every purpose of a well equipped farm. Some time after his purchase he added forty acres to the farm, but subsequently sold a like number of acres, leaving his farm the same size as originally. General farming and stock-raising engaged all of his time and attention. Joseph Ries is a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Roman Catholic church. In 1867, in Defiance, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Baker, a native of Henry county, and the daughter of Andrew and Anna (Wertz) Baker, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to America and settled in Henry county, O., where their daughter Anna was born on April 18, 1850. In 1857 the family removed to Defiance, where the father died in 1899, aged eighty-four years, and his widow in April, 1901, aged eighty-one years. He was a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Roman Catholic church. Of the nine children born to them only three are living. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Ries were David and Mary Baker, both natives of Germany, who settled in Henry county, O., where his wife died in 1855, aged forty years, and he in 1875 at the ripe old age of ninety-five years. To the marriage of Joseph Ries and wife there have been born ten children, of whom six are living. Their names follow: Ellen (deceased), Mary (deceased). Agnes (deceased). George, Ida, Henry (deceased), Robert, Flora, Julia and Alice.

WILLIAM E. RILEY, a prominent grain and coal merchant of Montpelier, was born in Bridgewater township on September 3, 1867. He is the son of Alfred and Eliza (Kollar) Riley, the former a native of Stark county and the latter of Wayne county, both in Ohio. His grandparents were John and Drusilla (Carr) Riley, both natives of Stark county. Few men of Williams county were better known or more highly respected than was the late Alfred Riley, who during his lifetime was a prosperous farmer of Superior and Bridgewater townships and who was twice honored with election to the all-important and responsible office of county commissioner. In 1845 Alfred Riley removed from his native county to Williams county. In 1855, having in the meantime married, he purchased a farm of fifty acres in Superior township and established his home there until 1862, when he sold this farm and purchased another of one hundred and forty acres in Bridgewater township. Here he resided, following general farming, until 1888, and then removed to Montpelier, where he died ten years later. In politics he was actively and prominently identified with the Republican party, having creditably filled various township offices prior to 1880, when he was elected county commissioner. In 1883 he was renominated for that office, and so satisfactory had been his conduct in the office the preceding term, and so fully did he enjoy the confidence of the people that he was again elected, although at that election the Republican party met its Waterloo, the entire ticket. with the single exception of Alfred Riley, going down in disastrous defeat. He served in the Thirty-eighth Ohio regiment, was an Odd Fellow, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1855 he was wedded to Miss Eliza Kollar, who was born in Wayne county, O., and died in February, 1904. This union resulted in the birth of the following children: Lenora, the wife of G. B. Williams of Bridgewater township: Emma, who died unmarried at the age of twenty years; Ella, now Mrs. James O. Coler of Montpelier; Lida, the wife of A. F. Brigle, of Florence township; William E., and Cora B., the wife of Cooper Farlee, of Montpelier. William E. Riley grew to manhood on the parental farm and removed to Montpelier, where he, in partnership with his father, engaged in the grain elevator business, and, upon the death of the latter, succeeded to the entire ownership. In addition to buying and selling grain he also deals largely in coal. He is a member of the city council and of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. Miss Eva Bailey, a native of Bridgewater township and the daughter of John and Hannah (Parker) Bailey, became his wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Riley one daughter, Thelma Josephine, has been born.

GEORGE C. RINGS is a representative of one of the oldest and most distinguished pioneer families of Williams county, and the thriving little city of West Unity, where he is successfully engaged in the practice of law, is located on land secured by his paternal grandfather from the government more than seventy years ago. Mr. Rings has served two terms as mayor of West Unity, and is one of its popular young business men, as well as one of the representative younger members of the bar of the county. He was born in West Unity, on the 4th of December, 1872. His father, Judge George Rings, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., April 25, 1834, and is a son of John Rings who was born in the same county, in 1804. There the latter wedded Anna Brinker, native of the same county. Michael Rings, father of John, was a native of Germany, as was also his wife, whose maiden name was Albrecht, and they came to America in an early day and became numbered among the sterling pioneers of Westmoreland county, Pa., where they continued to reside during the remainder of their lives. John Rings came with his family to Williams county, Ohio, in 1834, and he here secured three hundred and twenty acres of land in Brady township, taking up his residence on the property in 1835. On a portion of this tract he platted the village of West Unity in 1842, reclaimed a considerable portion of his land to cultivation, and was one of the most highly esteemed and most influential citizens of the county at the time of his death, which occurred on the 18th of April, 1855. His first wife died August 25, 1840, and of their four children Judge George Rings is the only one now living. John Rings married as his second wife Mrs. Rachel Hanzy, of Williams county, her maiden name having been Clifton, and she survived him by a number of years. They became the parents of six children, of whom two are living, Mrs. Anna Sindle and Mrs. Harriet Spade. One son, William C., enlisted for service in the Union ranks when seventeen years of age and died while in the army, at Murfreesboro, Tenn. John Rings was the first justice of the peace of Brady township, was county commissioner in 1837, and he was twice elected county treasurer, of which office he was incumbent at the time of his death. He was a man of much force and initiative power and did much to further the development and material and civic advancement of his township and county. He was associated in the ownership of the first sawmill and the first grist-mill in West Unity, and at the time of his demise was engaged in the general merchandise business in the town which he had thus founded. Judge George Rings received a good common-school education, having been a pupil in the first school house erected in Brady township. He early became actively concerned in the reclamation and development of the homestead farm, and he has ever since continued to be identified with the agricultural interests of the county, owning at the present time a most valuable landed estate of two hundred acres, a considerable portion of which lies within the corporate limits of the village of West Unity, where he has lived practically retired for the past twelve years. August 6, 1862, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a private in Company C, One Hundredth Ohio volunteer infantry, in which he was made first lieutenant and appointed adjutant. At Limestone Station, Tenn., on the 8th of September, 1863, he was captured, and was held for eight months in Libby prison, after which he was transferred to Danville prison, later being removed to Macon, Ga., and finally to Charleston, S. C., where, with about twelve hundred soldiers, he was placed under fire of the Union batteries then bombarding the city. This continued for a month, within which time yellow fever broke out in the locality, and in September, 1864, he was taken to Columbia, S. C., where he succeeded in making his escape, finding his way to the Union ranks and joining Sherman's army in front of Savannah, Ga. He had been promoted to captain of his company while he was in prison, and after his escape he was granted a furlough of thirty days, having gone from Savannah to New York city and thence to Washington. At the expiration of his furlough he rejoined his regiment at Wilmington, N. C., remaining in active service thereafter until the close of the war. He was mustered out in North Carolina and received his honorable discharge in Cleveland, Ohio. The more gracious memories and associations of his faithful military career are perpetuated through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Judge Rings has ever been a stalwart in the camp of the Democracy, and has been an active worker in the party cause. In 1858 he was nominated for the office of county auditor and was defeated by a small majority, but in 1877 he was elected to the above-named office by a flattering vote, and he has held other positions of public trust, in which his preferment has indicated the high esteem in which he is held in the county. In 1887 he was elected probate judge, and re-elected in 1890, serving in such capacity for a period of six years. Judge Rings has been a potent factor in local affairs, political, social and industrial, and he assisted in the building of the flour and woolen mills in West Unity, having been at one time proprietor of both; while his personal influence and capitalistic support has been given to other enterprises and to measures advanced for the general good of the community. He and his wife are prominent and zealous members of the Presbyterian church. February 16, 1871, Judge Rings was united in marriage to Kate L. (Casebeer) Miller, widow of James H. Miller and a daughter of James Casebeer, who was a prominent citizen of Hicksville, Defiance county, Ohio.

She had one son by her first marriage, James Haywood Miller, who was born June 29, 1867, and who is now cashier of the West Unity Banking Company. Judge and Mrs. Rings became the parents of five children, of whom the eldest is George C., the immediate subject of this sketch. Mary E. was born May 25, 1874, now residing in West Unity with her parents; John Edward, born July 20, 1875, is now a resident of Jackson, Mich.; William C., born March 9, 1877, died April 21, 1882; and Lucy A., born April 6, 1878, is the wife of William A. Hollington, assistant cashier of the West Unity Banking Company. George C. Rings completed a course in the West Unity high school, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1889, and he then entered the literary department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, after which he was matriculated in the law department of the same famous institution, being graduated as a member of the class of 1893 and receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He forthwith established himself in the practice of his profession in West Unity, and his native town and county have afforded him a field for most successful professional work, while he also gives attention to the management of his father's business interests. He is a stanch Democrat in his political allegiance, and he has served two terms as mayor of his native city, giving a most acceptable administration; and in a fraternal way he is identified with Superior Lodge No. 179, Free and Accepted Masons, and Evergreen Lodge No. 637, Knights of Pythias. February 9, 1895, Mr. Rings was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Allen, who was born in the state of Maine, being a daughter of John and Alice (Lane) Allen, both of whom were likewise natives of the Pine Tree state, and the latter now resides in West Unity, her husband having died in Williams county. He was long identified with the lumbering industry. Mr. and Mrs. Rings have four children, whose names and dates of birth are here entered: James Allen, born November 29, 1897; Margaret Alice, July 27, 1899; Catherine Anna, October 9, 1901; George Edward, July 9, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Rings are members of the Presbyterian church.

DAVID ROBISON, a representative farmer and prominent citizen of Millcreek township, is a native of the old Buckeye State, which has been his home from the time of his birth. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, on the 27th of October, 1848, and is a son of Elliott and Rosanna (Walkup) Robison. His father was born in Cumberland county, Pa., where he was reared to maturity and where he learned the carpenter trade. In company with his first wife, Mary (Cassette) Robison, he moved from Pennsylvania to Richland county, O., in the spring of 1834, where he followed his trade until 1854. To them were born five children, Jane, Samuel, Robert, George and Mary, all of whom are dead except Robert, who is living in Bridgewater township, Williams county, Ohio. Mary, wife of Elliott Robison, died on the 14th day of

June, 1840. He then married Miss Rosanna Walkup, who bore him five children, James, Martha, Mary Louisa, David and Franklin, all of whom are deceased except David. Mary Louisa married Amos Sayers, and to them was born one daughter, Jenny S., who married Wilkes Turbette, who is now living in Millcreek township. Mary Louisa died May 18, 1898. Elliott Robison moved to Williams county, Ohio, and located on a farm which constitutes a portion of the fine homestead, now owned by his son David, subject of this sketch. Elliott Robison reclaimed his farm from the virgin wilds and remained on it until his death, which occurred on December 30, 1864, his funeral occurring on New Year's day of the year 1865. His second wife passed away in 1859, both having been consistent members of the church. In politics he was a staunch Democrat, though never an aspirant for office. David Robison remained at the parental home until he was fifteen years of age, in the meanwhile attending the district schools in a somewhat irregular way. After leaving home he was variously employed working by the day and month until he was twenty-three years of age. On the 1st of February, 1872, Mr. Robison was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Crum, the marriage being solemnized at Ganges, Richland county. She was born in Millcreek township, Williams county, June 12, 1851, being a daughter of John and Catherine (Clay) Crum, the former of whom was born on a farm six miles east of Shelby, in Richland county, Ohio, on the 1st of March, 1820, while his death occurred August 24, 1900. He was a son of Jacob Crum, who was born in Huntingdon county, Pa., on the 4th of August, 1789. He married Elizabeth Keith and they settled on a primitive farm in Richland county, Ohio, in 1815, having been numbered among the sterling pioneers of that section and having there passed the remainder of their lives, becoming the parents of seven sons and one daughter. Their son John was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Clay on the 2d of November, 1848, and of the union was born eight children, of whom four are living, Mrs. Robison being the eldest of the survivors. Mr. and Mrs. Robison became the parents of three children, the second having been a son who died in infancy. Eva Bell, who was born May 25, 1874, is now the wife of William C. Leist and they reside in Fulton county, Ohio. Mary Catherine, who was born on October 2, 1882, is the wife of Virtle Dean, and they reside on the Robison homestead. Upon the death of his father, in 1864, Mr. Robison came into possession of the old homestead, comprising eighty acres, and he has since added fifty-eight acres to its area, so that the place now comprises one hundred and thirty-eight acres. The farm is one of the best in Williams county, being under most effective cultivation, and being improved with a fine brick residence, substantial modern barn and other excellent buildings. The farm is thoroughly equipped with a system of tile drainage and gives evidence of thrift and good management on every side. Mr. Robison gives his undivided attention to the work and management of his fine landed estate, and is one of the popular citizens of the community. He and his wife are zealous members of the Christian Union church, in which he holds the office of deacon, while he has been most successful in his work as a revivalist. That he follows his conscientious convictions in a practical, as well as theoretical, way is shown in the staunch support he gives to the Prohibition party, of whose principles he is an uncompromising advocate.

CARLETON S. ROE, editor and publisher of the "Press," of Bryan, has brought this old and popular journal up to a high standard of excellence, both as an exponent of local interests and of the principles of the Republican party, as well as in the matter of letter press and general makeup. The "Press" is the oldest paper of this section of the State, dating its inception back to 1854, and it has passed through several changes in ownership within the half century of its existence, Mr. Roe having been identified with its publication since 1889. He was born in Buchanan, Berrien county, Mich., on the 27th of June, 1864, and is a son of Rev. William M. and Harriet (Whitman) Roe, the father having been an able and prominent member of the clergy of the Christian or Disciples' church, in whose active ministry he labored long and faithfully. The Roe family has been established in America for at least four generations, and its representatives have been most numerous on Long Island, N. Y., where the original American progenitors settled. Carleton S. Roe secured his early educational discipline in the public schools of the various cities in which his parents resided during his youth. He spent two years in the schools of Davenport, Ia., and in 1882 was graduated in the high school at Dowagiac, Mich. He taught school in Cass county, Mich., about one year, and then went to St. Joseph, that State, where he devoted two years to learning the jewelry and watchmaking business. This occupation, however, could not prove satisfactory to one of so alert mentality and intellectual grasp, and in 1884 Mr. Roe came to Bryan and took up the study of law in the office of Hiram H. Calvin, who was mayor of the city at that time. In 1888 he was admitted to the bar and he forthwith entered into partnership with his honored preceptor, with whom he was engaged in practice for one year. At the expiration of this period, in June, 1889, he associated himself with James H. Letcher and purchased the plant and business of the "Press," which they continued to publish under the firm name of Letcher & Roe until March 1, 1896, Mr. Roe presiding at the editorial helm. The partnership was then dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Letcher, whose interest was acquired by Mr. Roe, and the latter gentleman has since been the sole owner of the paper and business. The "Press" is published on Thursday of each week, as a seven-column quarto, and its circulation is large and representative, since it is a welcome visitor in the best homes of this section. The plant is modern in equipment and facilities, including an excellent job department, and the business is ably managed and duly profitable. Mr. Roe is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Republican party and his sentiments are ably voiced in the columns of his paper. He is a vigorous and forceful writer, keeps his paper up to a metropolitan standard in its subject matter, and he is one of the most loyal and public-spirited citizens of the county, and is prominent in the local councils of the Republican party. In a fraternal way he is identified with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. October 25, 1888, Mr. Roe was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Moore, daughter of Samuel C. and Lovina (White) Moore, of Bryan, and they have two children, James M., born June 14, 1890, and Marjorie M., born September 17, 1892.

FRANCIS ROSENDAUL stands as a type of that sterling element which the great empire of Germany has contributed to the American republic, and he has been a resident of the latter from his early childhood, being thoroughly American in spirit, thought and action. He is one of the substantial farmers of Pulaski township and is well entitled to representation in this publication. Mr. Rosendaul was born in Westphalia, Germany, in August, 1832, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Metz) Rosendaul, both of whom were born and reared in that same province, where the father was in modest circumstances up to the time of his immigration to America, in 1836. He and his little family made the voyage on a sailing vessel, the trip being long and wearisome, and they finally disembarked in New York city. From New York they proceeded to Buffalo, whence they came to Youngstown, Ohio, the father finding employment in connection with canal construction, eventually removing to Columbiana county, where he remained until 1853, when he came to Wiliams county and purchased eighty acres of wild land in section 24, Pulaski township. He built a log house of the type common to the pioneer era and then essayed the herculean task of clearing his farm and placing it under cultivation. For nearly a score of years he lived on the homestead, developing a good farm and attaining a position of independence. Here he died in the year 1872, his wife having passed away in 1860, both having been communicants of the Catholic church, while in politics he gave his allegiance to the Democratic party until the formation of the Republican party, when he espoused its cause, ever afterward remaining a staunch advocate of its principles. This honored pioneer couple became the parents of four children, namely: Francis, whose name initiates this sketch; Bennett, who died in this county, where he was a successful farmer; Sophia, who is the wife of William Kaiser, of Bryan; and Maria, who is the wife of Uriah Tawney, residing near Portland, Ore. Francis Rosendaul was afforded the advantages of the common schools of Ohio in the pioneer days, having conned his lessons in the primitive log school house, and he remained on the parental homestead for three years after the removal of the family to Williams county. He then married, and for the ensuing period of about four years he worked at the carpenter trade and taught school during the winter terms. In 1860 he purchased forty acres of land in section 13, Pulaski township, the entire tract being covered with the native timber, and he has developed here one of the fine farms of the county, the area of his place at the present time being one hundred and twenty acres, while he has made excellent improvements in the way of buildings and modern utilities and is recognized as one of the progressive and substantial farmers and stock-growers of the county. He is a stalwart Republican in his political proclivities, and both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church. In 1863 Mr. Rosendaul manifested his loyalty to the Union by enlisting as a member of Company H, Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He was taken ill after the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, and for a time was confined in the hospital at Chattanooga, after which he took part in the battle of Nashville, returning to Chattanooga in the spring of 1865, and thence proceeding with his command to North Carolina, when he was again incapacitated by illness. In July, 1865, he was with his regiment in Louisville, Ky., and received his honorable discharge at the close of the war. His devoted wife looked after the interests of the homestead farm during the time of his absence as a soldier of the Union. In 1856 Mr. Rosendaul was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Partee, of Williams county. She was the daughter of James and Lotta (Read) Partee, old and respected residents of Defiance county, Ohio, where they continued to reside until their respective deaths. They were the parents of three children: Nancy, who is the widow of Solomon Wisler, residing in Defiance county; John, deceased, and Margaret. Thirteen children have been born of this union, eleven of whom are living. Matilda is the wife of Harvey Cline, of Stryker, O.; James, who married Miss Nancy Davis, is a prosperous farmer of Pulaski township; John resides in Ashley, Ind., where he is yardmaster for the Wabash Railroad; Minerva and Elizabeth are deceased; William is a successful farmer of Pulaski township; Diana is the wife of David Shaffer, of this township; Alice is the wife of Frank Meyers, of Center township; Daniel and Lemuel reside in Stryker, O.; Charles has charge of the old homestead farm, and Olive is the wife of Asa Huff, of Pulaski township.

PRESTON ROSE, general superintendent of the Oak Manufacturing Company of Edgerton, to which position he has recently been promoted from that of foreman of the basket department, is the descendant of a prominent Pennsylvania family. He is the son of John A. and Betsey M. (Handy) Rose, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Indiana and settled on a farm near the town of

Butler. John Rose, the grandfather of Preston Rose, was a very successful farmer in the Keystone state. In 1876, John A. Rose, having disposed of his farm in Indiana at a considerable profit, removed to Minnesota, where he resided four years, when he sold out and came to Edgerton, and purchased the woolen mill located there, and conducted it successfully until his death in March, 1904. Alfred Rose, a brother of John A. Rose, served with distinction in the Civil war. Preston Rose attended the public schools until ten years of age, when he began to work in his father's mill. He continued in this business until twelve years ago, when he became an employe in a basket factory, and in 1902 engaged with the Oak Manufacturing Company as foreman of their basket department. After he had served this company faithfully for three years as foreman, he was promoted to the responsible position of superintendent of the entire plant, which position he now holds. One hundred and thirty men are regularly employed by this company, and its products, consisting of one hundred different styles of baskets, are shipped to all sections of the country. As a matter of course, this success is largely due to the executive ability and the good business sense of the superintendent. He has been frugal in life, and so well remunerated for his services that he has not only become a stockholder in the company, but has also been enabled to purchase a comfortable and substantial home. In Odd Fellowship Preston Rose takes a very active part, having several times passed all of the chairs of that organization. He married Miss Alice Harker, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Mowery) Harker. Preston Rose has met with success because he has attended strictly to his own business and has led the life of an industrious and highly repected citizen. He is a Republican in politics and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JAMES H. ROTSELL is the owner of one of the fine farm properties of Pulaski township, where he is successfully following general agricultural pursuits, including the raising of live stock of an excellent grade. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, on the 25th of July, 1863, and is a son of Dr. Oliver J., and Rebecah (Bachenstaugh) Rotsell, the former of whom was born in Northampton county, Pa., on the 12th of January, 1823, and the latter was likewise a native of the old Keystone State, where both families were established in the pioneer epoch. Both Dr. and Rebecah Rotsell had been previously married, and each had one child by the former union. Irene, daughter of the Doctor by his first marriage, died when about fifteen years of age, and Amanda Miller, daughter of Mrs. Rotsell by her first husband, died in 1896, in Stryker, Ohio. Dr. Rotsell came to Ohio in an early day and located in Shenandoah, Richland county, where he was engaged in the practice of medicine about fifteen years, having been a man of high scholastic and professional attainments. In that county was solemnized his second marriage, and in 1865 he removed with his family to Williams county, where he secured two hundred and ninety-six acres of wild land, in section 14, Pulaski township, and under his able direction much of this land was cleared and made available for cultivation, his homestead becoming one of the best in this attractive section. The Doctor continued in the practice of his profession for many years, and he died in the city of Bryan, this county, on the 14th of April, 1902, while his cherished and devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal on the 14th of November, 1904. Dr. Rotsell was a man of positive character and sterling integrity, and none knew him but to accord to him the fullest measure of confidence and esteem. Though never an aspirant for office he took a loyal interest in local affairs of a public nature and was a stalwart adherent of the Democratic party. He was identified with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife were members of the Universalist church. Of their children the following is a brief record: Josephine is the widow of Dr. Festus A. Snear, and resides in Bryan; Oliver C. is a successful stock-grower of Blackfoot, Idaho; Quintus C. resides on the old homestead; James H. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Wiliam C. is engaged in business in Defiance, Ohio; Sadie is the wife of Frederick Morrison, of Bryan; Ella is the wife of Charles Langel, and they reside in the State of Kansas. James H. Rotsell was afforded the advantages of the public schools, completing a course in the graded school in Bryan, and in the meanwhile assisting in the work of the home farm. In 1899 he purchased his present farm, known as the George Pask place, in section 14, Pulaski township, and the same comprises one hundred and twenty acres, improved with good buildings and maintained under effective cultivation, while he also devotes no little attention to the raising of prime grades of live stock. He has been a farmer during the greater portion of his active career, and his thorough knowledge of details and his progressive methods have enabled him to derive the maximum returns from his efforts. In politics he accords a stanch allegiance to the Democratic party, and both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church. October 27, 1887, Mr. Rotsell was united in marriage to Miss Florence Silliman, who was born and reared in Williams county, being a daughter of Britton Silliman, a representative farmer of Pulaski township. Of this union have been born two children, Elery J., who was born May 29, 1889; and Leona V., who died in August, 1902, at the age of two years.

JOHN D. RUMSEY, one of the representative business men of Williams county, being engaged in the manufacturing of drain tile, sewer pipe, building brick, fire brick and allied products, at Stryker, was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., on the 18th of February, 1862, and is a son of John G. and Roxana L. (Stubbs) Rumsey. John G. Rumsey was born in the village of Newfield, Tompkins county, N. Y., on the 8th of March, 1832, being a son of Moses and Elizabeth (Miller) Rumsey, both of whom were born and reared in the old Empire State, where the father learned the blacksmith trade and was also engaged in farming. In 1866 they removed to St. Louis, Mo., where both he and his wife died. Both were members of the Christian church, and in politics he was a Democrat, while he served in various offices of local trust. Of the ten children in the family only two are now living, Moses, who is a resident of St. Louis; and John G. The latter secured his education in the schools of his native county, remaining at the paternal home until he was sixteen years of age, when he set forth to fight the battle of life on his own responsibility. He finally found employment in connection with the construction work on the New York & Erie railroad, having charge of the blacksmith and tool works, and later he was in the employ of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad Company, in a similar capacity. He came west to St. Louis, Mo., and was foreman of construction for this railroad for two years, after which he went to work on the Wabash railroad, having his headquarters in Lafayette, Ind., and he also had charge of the operation of a steam shovel. His health finally became impaired and he returned to the State of New York, where he remained until 1857, when he came to Williams county and purchased two hundred acres of land in section 21, Springfield township, about one-half of the tract having been cleared. He engaged in general farming, and for two years also raised tobacco, the first propagated in the county, the product being abundant and of good quality. In 1860 Mr. Rumsey joined the throng of goldseekers who were making their way to Pike's Peak, Colo. He joined a party which had an equipment of twenty wagons, and which transported a quartz mill, he having charge of the train, which had a successful trip, making the overland journey from St. Joseph, Mo., to Colorado in about sixty-five days. He was engaged in mining in Colorado about six months, meeting with indifferent success, and then returned to Williams county. Here his marriage had been solemnized May 9, 1859, when Miss Roxana L. Stubbs became his wife, she being a daughter of William M. Stubbs, a pioneer farmer of the county. In 1861 Mr. and Mrs. Rumsey went to New York State, where he was engaged in farming until 1865, when he returned to Williams county and resumed his agricultural operations, finally disposing of his original farm and purchasing his present finely improved homestead. During the intervening years he has been actively identified with farming in this county for the greater portion of the time, though for a number of years he traveled through Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan as a traveling salesman. Later he purchased the brick and tile works now operated by his son, John D., in Stryker. He is now living practically retired in Stryker, where he has a nice home, and where he and his wife have a wide circle of loyal friends. He has been very successful in his various business enterprises and is one of the well-to-do citizens of Williams county. He is the owner of a landed estate of two hundred acres, in this county, and leases the same. He is an ardent Democrat in his political proclivities. and fraternally is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Rumsey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They became the parents of two sons, of whom the subject of the sketch is the younger. Horace S., who died on the 5th of November, 1895, was at the time engaged in the drug business in Stryker, and also conducted a hardware business in Waldron. Hillsdale county, Mich., across the state line from Williams county. He served as postmaster of Stryker and was a prominent and highly honored citizen and business man. He married Miss Lucy Schuler, who survives him, as does also their only child, Floyd, who, with his mother, still resides in Stryker. John D. Rumsey, whose name introduces this article, was afforded the advantages of the public schools and remained at the parental home, assisting his father in his various business operations until his marriage, and he succeeded his father in the brick and tile business, which he has since conducted with much energy, discrimination and consequent success, well upholding the high prestige of the family name in connection with public-spirited citizenship and valuable productive enterprise in fields of legitimate business industry. The business which he now controls was established in 1882 by Walter I. Pepple, and in 1888 the plant and business passed into the possession of John G. and John D. Rumsey, who have greatly amplified the capacity and functions of the same since assuming control, while the business has been conducted under the name of J. D. Rumsey since the change in ownership noted. In the plant, which is an extensive one and equipped with the most modern machinery and accessories, are manufactured superior lines of drain tile, sewer pipe, hollow-block Y's and T's, building and fire brick, fire clay, etc., while the concern also handles lime, cement, wall plaster, concrete building blocks and other building supplies, besides coal, wood and ice. The business is constantly expanding in scope and importance, extending into Michigan, Ohio and other States, and under the progressive management of Mr. Rumsey it has come to represent one of the most valuable adjuncts to the industrial status not only of Stryker but also of the county. The county has no more public-spirited and loyal citizen than the popular young business man to whom this sketch is dedicated, and he is never neglectful of any of the duties of citizenship, no matter how pressing the demands of his private business interests. He is a valued worker in the local ranks of the Democratic party, and his services have been in requisition in his home city, where popular appreciation of his eligibility has been manifested, in that he has been retained as mayor for the last seven years, giving an administration which has been characterized by wise and progressive ideas, while previously he was a member of the municipal council for four years and served two years as a member of the board of education. He is a member of the Independent Order of

Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in which latter he is affiliated with the lodge in the city of Toledo. Mrs. Rumsey is a member of the Baptist church. In 1903 Mr. Rumsey erected his fine brick residence, which is modern in architectural design and all equipments, being one of the handsomest residences in the county. In October, 1886, John D. Rumsey was united in marriage to Miss Leah Louys, who was born and reared in Williams county, being a daughter of Frederick Louys, who was born in France, having been eighteen years of age at the time of his parents' immigration to America. Peter Louys, father of Frederick, settled in Springfield township, this county, where he was identified with farming until his death. Frederick was for a time employed on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, and finally he engaged in the general merchandise business in Stryker, building up a large and substantial enterprise and continuing to be identified with the same until his death, which occurred January 3, 1903. His widow still resides in Stryker, and of their seven children, six are living. Mr. and Mrs. Rumsey have one son, Louys A., who was born May 7, 1889, and who is being afforded the best of educational advantages.

ROSWELL A. RUSSELL, a prominent and successful merchant of Bryan, was born in West Unity, March 20, 1860. He is descended from an influential English family, founded in America in the Seventeenth century by three brothers who settled in the New England colonies, two in Maine and one in Massachusetts. His grandfather, James Russell, the son of James Russell, came west from Rochester, N. Y., and located first near Cleveland, Ohio, where he married Miss Cynthia Leach, and then removed to West Unity, where he followed the occupation of shoemaking. To these parents the following children were born: Franklin P., the father of the subject of this sketch; Louisa, the wife of a Mr. Martin, and after his death the wife of Ezekiel Griffin, of Fayette, Ohio; George, deceased, late a minister of the Baptist church; Alice, now Mrs. Cline, residing near Liberty Center, Ohio; Cynthia and Warren, both deecased; Allen, who resides near Morenci, Mich., and Ida, now Mrs. Flickinger, of Liberty Center. Franklin P. Russell was a shoemaker by trade. After his marriage in West Unity, about 1862, he removed to Bryan, where for some time he was an employee in the shoe establishment of a Mr. Fairfield. Then he became a traveling salesman of Samuel Kennard, a wholesale shoe merchant of Cleveland. His death occurred at Kansas City, Mo. The maternal grandfather of Roswell A. Russell was William Cline, a native of Pennsylvania, whose ancestors emigrated in an early day from Germany to that State. He first removed to Richland county, Ohio, and in 1837 to Williams county, locating at West Unity, where he was one of the first to engage in merchandising. During the gold fever of 1849 he went to California and was never heard of afterward. His widow, who before her marriage was Miss Hannah Tyndall, was a native of Pennsylvania, and removed with her parents to Huron county, O., in an early day. She died in Bryan in April, 1904, aged eighty years. To William Cline and wife these children were born: Sarah M. and James K. P., the latter of whom, at the age of eighteen years enlisted in Company C of the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry in 1861 and died at Danville, Ky. Roswell A. Russell was but ten years old when his mother died. After the death of his father she married again and he removed with her to Portland, Mich., in 1868. Two years later, immediately after his mother's death, he returned with his grandmother to Bryan. To the second marriage of his mother one daughter was born, named Ida M., now the wife of R. M. Rice, of Bryan. When only thirteen years old Roswell A. Russell began to make his own living by working at various occupations. For nine years he was employed in the Bryan foundry and the Bryan Manufacturing Company, in the meantime attending school during the winter months. Then for a time he was engaged in the dray and express business, following that employment by acting as traveling salesman for a wholesale house. After a brief experience in the restaurant and confectionery business, he formed a partnership with H. M. Clodfelter and engaged in the mercantile business for two years, carrying a limited stock of goods. Selling his interest in this establishment to his partner, he bought a stock of clothing at a bankrupt sale and drifted into the clothing and shoe trade. Two years later he formed a partnership with C. E. Thomas, and under the firm name of Russell & Thomas the business has ever since been successfully conducted. This establishment carries a large stock of clothing, shoes and ladies' and gents' furnishings. Mr. Russell is a Chapter Mason, an Odd Fellow and a member of the Presbyterian church. He chose as his life partner Miss Clara E. Hogue, a native of Florence township, and the daughter of Milton and Sophia (Miser) Hogue. The first representative of the Hogue family to come to Williams county was Jonathan Hogue, who located in Florence township in 1837, where he died and where his widow still resides at the advanced age of ninety-two years. To Roswell A. Russell and wife the following children have been born: Charles E., who married Miss Maude E. Blair, and is an employee in his father's store, and Harry E., an accountant of Toledo, O.

MARTIN D. SANDERS, a prominent public and school official of St. Joseph township, is of German descent, his father and grandparents having been born in Germany, where the family owned a fine farm. In 1840 Anthony and Mary Sanders, the grandparents of Martin D. Sanders, emigrated to America, locating in the State of New York, where the former died in 1852 and the latter in 1874. Francis A. Sanders, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Germany in 1825 and was fifteen years old when he came with his parents to New York. There he grew to manhood. For some years he was engaged in business in Newark, N. J., and took a very active part in the public affairs of that city. In 1868 he removed to Ohio and located in St. Joseph township, Williams county, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres, which he soon brought to a high state of cultivation and equipped with up-to-date and commodious buildings. In 1879 he went to Saline, Kan., and spent two years there. In 1849 he married Miss Mary L. Siever and they were the parents of six children: Frank L. (deceased), John C., Joseph, William A., Martin D. and Mary A. He died in 1895, aged seventy years. Martin D. Sanders was born in Newark, N. J., November 13, 1863, and came with his parents to St. Joseph township, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving his education in the public schools of the township and of Edgerton. In farming he has been very successful, as his valuable farm near Edgerton proves. In school affairs he has taken the deepest interest, having served on the township school board for the past twelve years, and is now the president of the same. In 1901 he was elected chairman of the township board of trustees and re-elected three years later. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party and in 1903 was a member of the county central committee. Mr. Sanders is a member of the organization known as the Maccabees. He married Miss Della Stevens, the daughter of John H. Stevens, a pioneer settler of St. Joseph township and a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are the parents of three children, named Ralph, Steven and Mildred, all still at home and attending the public schools of Edgerton. Martin D. Sanders is one of the most successful men of Williams county, and has always taken an active part in furthering any enterprise calculated to benefit the people of that county. It is his happy lot to be respected and highly esteemed by his neighbors and fellow citizens. He and wife are members of the Catholic church at Edgerton, O.

PROF. WILLIAM A. SAUNDERS, superintendent of the public schools of Montpelier, is the representative of a prominent English family, remotely related to Lord Townley, that emigrated to America in an early day. His grandfather was Reuben Saunders, a native of the State of New York. He is the son of Stephen Tillottson and Rachel Teresa (Bassett) Saunders, both natives of New York State, the latter being also of English descent. In 1853 Stephen T. Saunders came to Ashtabula county, O., and settled on a farm in Orwell township, where he pursued the occupation of farming. He died at the homestead in 1863, and his wife, the daughter of Ivory Bassett, survived him six years. To these parents there were born two sons and one daughter. Ivory Bassett, the eldest son, was born in Pennsylvania, enlisted in Company A of the Sixth Ohio Cavalry, and died at Camp Chase, O., in 1862. He was a magnificent specimen of physical manhood, being six feet and three and one-half inches tall. Matilda Maria was born in Erie county, Pa., and died when six months old; and William A. is the subject of this sketch. William A.

Saunders was born in Wayne township, Erie county, Pa., on June 30, 1851. He was reared on the parental farm and secured his education in the public schools and at the Orwell Normal Institute, Orwell, O., from which institution he graduated in 1872. The same year, through an appointment of James A. Garfield, following a competitive examination, he received the appointment of Cadet to the West Point Military Academy, reporting for admission in June, 1872. After an attendance of two years he returned to his home in Ohio. In 1875 he came to Williams county and taught for several terms. In 1879 he was elected superintendent of the Montpelier schools and served in that capacity for six years. His next appointment was to the superintendency of the Stryker schools, which position he filled for three years, and then for five years he held a like position in the Bryan schools. Following his work in the Bryan schools he served for four years as manager of the Educational Publishing Company, and he is now serving his seventh consecutive year as superintendent of the Montpelier schools. During this time he has for five years held the office of County School Examiner, having received his appointment at the hands of Judge Martin Perky. Since 1889 he has held a life certificate in Ohio. Mr. Saunders is a prominent Mason, holding membership in the Bryan Blue Lodge and Chapter, the Wauseon Council and the Adrian, Mich., Commandery. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Montpelier Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Bryan Encampment of the latter order. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. He was wedded to Miss Mary L. Johnson, born in Northwest township, the daughter of Aldis Johnson, who was of Scotch nativity and a pioneer settler of Northwest township, coming to Williams county from Vermont in 1843. Since the death of Mr. Johnson his widow has made her home with Mr. Saunders. One daughter, Nellie Ludlow, deceased, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Saunders. She was educated in the Bryan and Stryker schools.

MICHAEL M. SCHAEFFER.—Varied as are the vocations to which man turns his attention, the great basic industry of agriculture is one which has never been subordinated to any other, and the cumulative wealth and prosperity of all nations have depended largely on the sturdy husbandmen. Williams county, from the pioneer days to the present, has enlisted in the development and promotion of its agricultural interests a class of energetic, reliable and able men, and no further evidence of this is demanded than that offered in tne appearance of the hundreds of beautiful farms within its borders. One of these fine landed estates is that of Mr. Schaeffer, in section 22, Springfield township, and he gave his personal attention to the operation of the place until 1903, when he removed to Stryker, where he has since lived measurably retired from active business. Mr. Schaeffer is a native of the Buckeye State, having been born near the city of Dayton, Montgomery county, on the 26th of September, 1832, son of John C. and Mary (Winters) Schaeffer, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Maryland. John C. Schaeffer was reared in the Keystone State, where he learned the trade of carpenter. He was numbered among the pioneers of Montgomery county, O., where he was married and where he remained until 1840, when he came with his family to Williams county, making the trip overland with a one-horse wagon. The family resided about six months in Evansport, (now Defiance county), and then took up their residence on the pioneer farm in Springfield township. Here the father secured eighty-six acres of wild land, upon which a small clearing had been made and a log cabin erected. He reclaimed a considerable portion of the land and made good improvements for the day, and he also continued to work at his trade at intervals. He died on this old homestead in 1851, and his wife passed away in 1883, at the venerable age of eighty-three years. John C. Schaeffer was a Democrat in politics and held various township offices, and both he and his wife were consistent members of the German Reformed church. They became the parents of eleven children, all but one of whom attained maturity, and five of the number are living at the present time. Rebecca and Thomas are deceased, as is also David, whose twin brother, Valentine, resides in Dayton, O; Susanna is deceased; John W. is a resident of Gratiot county, Mich.; Michael W. was the next in order of birth; Adeline is deceased; Harriet resides at Burlington Junction, Mo.; and Mary Jane is the wife of Wesley B. Kitzmiller, of Stryker. Michael W. Schaeffer was about eight years of age at the time of his parents' removal to the wilds of Williams county, where he assisted in the reclamation of the home farm, his educational advantages being naturally limited, as very few schools had been established in this section, and these were primitive. He continued on the home farm after the death of his father, caring for his mother with much devotion, and the homestead is a portion of his present estate, which comprises two hundred and six acres, of which one hundred and sixty acres are under effective cultivation; and the place is improved with good buildings and is one of the valuable farms of Springfield township. Mr. Schaeffer continued to give his personal supervision to his farm until 1903, when he took up his residence in Stryker, where he is now living retired, as has already been noted in this article. He is a Republican in politics and has served as township trustee and school director, though never ambitious for official preferment. He has been a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church for half a century, and Mrs. Schaeffer likewise is a devoted member. At Evansport, Defiance county, on the 11th of May, 1856, Mr. Schaeffer was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Grimes, who was born in Guernsey county, O., July 27, 1837, being a daughter of Richard and Jane Elizabeth (Duffy) Grimes, who became pioneers of Henry county, where both died. Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer have ten children, concerning whom brief record is here given: Ina M. is the wife of Mezzina Slusser, a prominent member of the bar of DuPage county, Ill., where he is serving on the circuit bench, maintaining his home in Downer's Grove and having an office in the city of Chicago. Judge and Mrs. Slusser have five sons. Ambrose M. Schaeffer, who is a carpenter and builder of Stryker, married Miss Flora Swank, and they have three children. Alta M. is the wife of Elmer Christy, a farmer of Springfield township, and they have four children; Sarah is the wife of Edward L. Ditto, a merchant of Bryan, and they have one son. Thomas J., who is a successful farmer of Springfield township, married Miss Maggie Prettyman, and they have four children. Mary S. is the wife of Frederick H. Reynolds, a grocer in Stryker, and they have four children. Kathrine I. is the wife of Dr. Clarkson P. Hockett, of Kouts, Ind.; Ervin, who married Miss Lillian Young, has charge of his father's homestead farm. Olive E. is the wife of Dr. William Stoner, of Vilas, Kansas. Frederick W. is second gunner on the "Dauphin," a war vessel of the United States navy, in which he has served four years.

JACOB F. SCHIEBER is the owner of a fine farm in section 6, Superior township, and is known as one of the representative agriculturists and sterling citizens of this part of the county. He was born in Wittenberg, Germany, on the 19th of July, 1853, and is the eldest of the five children born to Jacob and Margaret (Fink) Schieber, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, where the father followed farming and ropemaking as a vocation until 1862, when he immigrated to America, locating in Defiance county, O., where he maintained his home for a number of years, finally removing to Texas, where both he and his wife died. They were members of the German Methodist church, in which he was a class leader about five years, and in politics he was a stanch Republican. Of the other four children in the family it may be noted that Mary is the wife of Jacob Shoup; Frederick is a resident of Denver, Colo.; Julia is the wife of Henry Martin; and William was last heard from at Memphis, Tenn. Jacob F. Schieber, Jr., subject of this sketch, secured his rudimentary educational training in the excellent schools of his fatherland and was about nine years of age at the time of the family removal to the United States. He continued to attend school in Defiance county, O., where he grew to manhood, associated in the work of the home farm, and he has ever continued to follow agricultural pursuits, winning independence through his earnest and honorable efforts. He came to Williams county about 1873 and purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and twenty-three acres, nearly all being under effective cultivation, and the buildings and other improvements are of substantial character, indicating the thrift and good management of the owner. Mr. Schieber is a loyal adherent of the Republican party, and both he and his wife hold membership in the United Brethren church, his first wife having been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1879 Mr. Schieber married Miss Alice Page, daughter of William E. Page, of Superior township, and she died August 28, 1902, leaving four children, William, Irwin, Mary and John. The eldest son married Mabel Kirk, and they have one child, Earl. On Thanksgiving day of the year 1903 Mr. Schieber consummated a second marriage, being then united to Mrs. Cora McCabe of Northwest township. She is the daughter of Asal and Martha J. (Van Imins) Ackley. Mrs. Schieber was born in Defiance county, O., on September 7, 1863, and came with her first husband, Lucius McCabe, to Williams county in 1884. The pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Schieber is a most hospitable one and they have many friends in the community, being accorded uniform respect and esteem by all who know them.

ADOLPH SCHMACHTENBERGER, one of the representative farmers of Pulaski township, has passed his entire life in Williams county and is a member of one of its well-known pioneer families. He was born in Bryan, the judicial center of this county, on the 29th of June, 1848, and is a son of Benjamin and Susanah (Miller) Schmachtenberger, the former of whom was born in Canton township, Stark county, O., in 1816, while the latter was born in Paris, that county, where the respective families were founded in the early pioneer era. The father was reared to manhood in Stark county, where he received a good common-school education, and also learned the carpenter trade. In 1846 he came to Williams county and secured a quarter section of wild and heavily timbered land in section 33, Pulaski township, no roads having as yet been constructed in this now beautiful and opulent section of the county. After thus locating his embryonic farm he returned to Stark county, where he was shortly afterward married, and in 1847 he came with his young wife to Williams county and took up his residence in Bryan, where he worked at his trade about seven years, in the meanwhile hiring men to do some clearing on his farm. He finally took up his residence on the homestead, having erected a two-room log house, eighteen by twenty-four feet in dimensions, and this continued to be the family domicile until 1869, when he erected the substantial brick house which is still standing, having manufactured the necessary brick on the farm. He carried forward the work of reclaiming and cultivating his farm, and did more or less work at his trade, becoming one of the most influential and honored citizens of Pulaski township, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on August 15, 1894. His first wife died on October 14, 1889, and he later married Johanna Griener, a widow, of Richland county, O., and she survived him, passing the closing years of her life in Michigan. No children were born of the second marriage, and of the seven children of the first union only two are living. The names of the children are here entered in order of birth: Cleophas, Adolph, Rudolph, Ada, Samuel and Simon (twins), and Ida. The two living are Adolph, whose name initiates this sketch, and Ada, who is the wife of Samuel Farber, of Defiance county, O. Adolph Schmachtenberger was reared to the sturdy discipline of the homestead farm, in whose reclamation and cultivation he lent his quota of aid, while his educational advantages were those afforded in the primitive log school house of the locality and period. He continued to be associated in the work and management of the home farm until he had attained the age of twenty-nine years, when he was married, after which he passed one year on the farm of his wife's parents. In 1880 he located upon his present farm, which comprises eighty-two acres of the old homestead of his father, all being available for cultivation except eight acres, which are still covered with the native timber. Mr. Schmachtenberger erected his present commodious and comfortable residence in 1881, and in the following year built the large and well equipped barn, and all other improvements on the place are of the best type, indicating progressive and enterprising management on the part of the owner. He raises the various agricultural products best adapted to the soil and climate, and also has on his place each season a select assortment of high-grade live stock—cattle, horses and swine—while the place yields a fine variety of orchard and small fruits. In political affairs Mr. Schmachtenberger maintains an independent attitude, voting for the support of the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, and he has never consented to become a candidate for office, save that he has been a school director of his district. In 1877 Mr. Schmachtenberger was united in marriage to Miss Christena B. Smeltz, who was born in Seneca county, O., being a daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Lebold) Smeltz, who were pioneers of that county. Mrs. Schmachtenberger died in 1887, being survived by four children, namely: Susana H., who remains with her father; Mary Luella, who is the wife of Stanley Bishop, of Bryan; Carrie M., who is the wife of Lester J. Salsbury, of Pulaski township, and Chauncey F., who is associated with his father in the management of the home farm. In 1888 Mr. Schmachtenberger married Miss Susan Miller, who was born in Stark county, O., being a daughter of Henry J. and Rachel (Baum) Miller, who were born in Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Stark county, O., in an early day and later to Richland county, then to Putnam county and in the year 1851 to Florence township, Williams county, where Mr. Miller died in March, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Schmachtenberger have no children. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church.

DAVID SCHALL, a successful farmer and well known citizen of Florence township, is a native of Superior township, having been born on a farm within a mile of Montpelier on February 17, 1845. His parents were William H. and Mary Ann (Heavett) Schall, both natives of Virginia, the latter having been born within three miles of Harper's Ferry. His grandfather, John M. Schall, a native of Virginia, came to Seneca county, O., and located on a farm near Tiffin, where he spent the remainder of his days, engaged in general farming. William H. Schall grew to manhood on the parental farm, having come to Seneca county with his parents. Having chosen farming as his avocation he began early to make his own way in the world. In 1844 he removed to Superior township, Williams county, and there purchased, cleared and cultivated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In politics he was a stanch Republican. For eleven years, including the stirring period of the Civil war, he served as trustee of Superior township. In religious matters both he and his wife entertained quite liberal views, neither being identified with any religious denomination. In 1888, while on a visit to Eaton Rapids, Mich., he died, his wife having died twenty-five years before. Of the twelve children born to these parents ten are still living. David Schall was reared on his father's farm and received only a limited education, as the common schools of that day had not yet reached their present high standard. Having purchased a farm of eighty acres in Florence township, he proceeded at once to clear and improve the land, erecting substantial and convenient buildings on it. Altogether he has cleared more than one hundred acres of land, abundant proof of his enterprise and industry. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest, having served as supervisor for many years and as cemetery trustee for fourteen consecutive years. He is a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics, and with his wife a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, he himself having been identified with that organization for the past thirty years. In August, 1865, he chose as his helpmeet on life's journey, Miss Emily Flegal, a native of Columbiana county, O., where she was born in 1847, and the daughter of William and Susan Flegal, who came to Jefferson township in pioneer days. Mr. Flegal died in Steuben county, Ind., and his wife at Bosworth, Mo. Two sons have been born to David Schall and wife. William C., the elder, was born May 24, 1869, educated in the public schools and trained for the occupation of farming. He resides in Steuben county, Ind., where he married Miss Ida Cook, the daughter of Samuel Cook, whose father is mentioned elsewhere in this work. To them there have been born three children. They are: Leroy, Arden and Marie. Ernest E., the younger, was born November 28, 1875, educated in the district and Edon high schools, and is a farmer by occupation, having charge of the homestead. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party. In 1897 he was wedded to Miss Minnie Rockey, the daughter of William and Laura (Lechleidner) Rockey and granddaughter of William Rockey, Sr., of Florence township. Mrs. Schall is an earnest member of the Christian Union church. To Ernest Schall and wife three children have been born. They are: Erma, Leon and Duane.

THE SCOTT FAMILY of Williams county, of which Charles E. Scott, an eminent lawyer of Bryan, is a member, has been prominently identified with the State of Ohio for more than a century. The original progenitor of this branch of the family in America was Matthew Scott, a native of Ireland, who settled in Columbiana county, O., in January, 1801, where, soon after his arrival, he married Miss Nancy Eaton. About the year 1809 he removed to Wayne county, and he was so unfortunate as to lose his wife. Subsequently he contracted a second marriage with Miss Lucinda Bevington. By these two marriages he became the father of sixteen children, five by his first wife and eleven by his second. Robert Scott, the grandfather of Charles E., was the third child born to the first marriage. On April 6, 1824, in Wayne county, he was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Cunningham, a native of New Jersey, who was born on February 6, 1824, and died in Wayne county on January 8, 1871. On September 7, 1877, he married Mrs. Nancy Austin, after which he removed to Stark county, where he continued to reside the remainder of his days. His children were as follows: William C., James, Noah, John, Cunningham R., Elizabeth, Mary and Olive. William C. Scott, the father of Charles E. and a child by the first marriage, was born in Wayne county, on January 23, 1825. He remained at home until 1848, and then went to Fulton county, O., where he resided one year. Then he removed to Allen county, Ind., where on November 13, 1851, he was wedded to Miss Elizabeth Millhouse, who was born in Somerset county, Pa., on September 14, 1822, the daughter of Abraham and Margaret Millhouse, natives of Somerset county, the former born in 1799 and the latter in 1802. Abraham Millhouse was married in 1821, and in 1851 removed to Jackson county, Ill., where his wife died on November 3, 1873, and he on August 10, of the following year. After his marriage William C. Scott left Allen county, Ind., and returned to Fulton county, O., and resided there until 1855, when he removed to Bryan, Williams county. After being engaged for about four years in the saw-mill business, he purchased a farm in Center township. Seven years later he sold this farm and purchased another in the same township, which he made his permanent residence. To William C. Scott and wife the following children were born: Margaret A., Robert A., Charles E., H. Winfield, J. Ellsworth and Matis R. Robert A. Scott, deceased, the eldest son of William C. Scott, in his life one of the most prominent members of the Williams county bar, was born in Fulton county, O., on August 7, 1854, and died in 1886. He was reared on the farm in Center township, receiving his education in the district schools. In 1874, after having taught for several years, he began the study of law in the office of Pratt & Bentley in Bryan. He then attended the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated and received his degree in the spring of 1876. Continuing in the office of his preceptors until November of that year, he then formed a partnership with Judge Leidigh. In 1878 he was elected as a Democrat to the office of prosecuting attorney of Williams county, his competitor being C. S. Bentley, one of his preceptors. After serving two years with ability and to the entire satisfaction of the people, he was re-nominated, but was defeated by a nominal county majority, notwithstanding the fact that he ran ahead of his ticket. In 1884 he was nominated for the third time and was triumphantly elected, defeating C. H. Masters, now a prominent attorney of Toledo, O. On March 1, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Meeks, of Wauseon, Fulton county. To these parents there were born four children: Herma, Bertha, William R., and Mary.

JOHN MADISON SHAFER, postmaster of Edon and deputy State supervisor of elections, is a native of Center township, where he was born January 13, 1863. He is the son of Franklin and Sidney (Snider) Shafer, the former born in Massillon, O., October 30, 1830, and the latter in Jefferson township on May 29, 1837. His grandparents were Amasa and Elizabeth (Hill) Shafer, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Stark county, O. Amasa Shafer removed to Stark county with his mother and two brothers when a child and was married there. On May 8, 1835, he and family came to Williams county and settled in the woods one mile east of Melbern, where he resided three and one-half years. Then he removed to west of Lick Creek church and located on a tract of eighty-six acres of timbered land. After clearing and cultivating this land for a time he removed to Williams Center and there followed the cooper trade, which he had learned while growing to manhood. In politics he was first a Whig, then an Abolitionist and finally a Republican. For quite a number of years he served as justice of the peace, and with his wife was actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. To these parents there were born the following children: William, deceased; Franklin; Washington; Jane; Elizabeth, deceased; Lucinda; Anson, deceased; and Mary, deceased. Mr. Shafer's maternal grandparents, John Snider and wife, were natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively, the former born in Columbiana county, in March, 1800, and the latter in May of the same year. After their marriage in Columbiana county they removed to Williams county, in 1836, and located in Jefferson township, where John Snider owned and cleared a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. In 1864 he removed to Hillsdale county, Mich., where he resided for fifteen years on a farm of eighty acres and followed general farming. In politics he was first a Whig and then a Republican. He and wife were actively identified with the Baptist church. In 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years, he departed this life, and was survived by his widow, who made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Alphonso Ewan of Bryan. She died at the venerable age of ninety-one years. The maternal great-grandparents of the subject of this sketch were William and Jane (Hitchcock) Hill, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Scotland. William Hill emigrated to America and settled in Stark county, O., in a very early day. In 1835 he removed to Center township, Williams county, where he died at a ripe age. After his death his widow made her home with her son, William Hill, in Henry county, Ill., and there died. Andrew Shafer, his paternal great-grandfather, was a valiant soldier of the war of the American Revolution. Franklin Shafer was reared on a farm and received his education by attending the district schools. His early life was indeed a strenuous one, for he helped to clear no less than seven different farms. In 1864 he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, located two miles north and two and one-half miles east of Edon, of which he afterwards sold fifty acres. In March, 1901, he removed to Edon, where he owns a valuable residence and about two acres of ground. In politics he is a Republican and in religious belief a Methodist, of which denomination his wife also is a devout member. They were married in Center township on April 13, 1862, and are the parents of the following children: John Madison, and Lizzie, the latter of whom was born July 22, 1871, educated in the common school and married to Hiram Anspaugh, of Florence township. The names of Mr. and Mrs. Anspaugh's children are Donald, Marion, Sidney and Martha. John Madison Shafer, a lineal descendant of Robert Morris, was eighteen months old when he moved with his parents to the farm in Florence township which he now owns. His education was acquired by attending the district schools and the Edon high school. Having learned the carpenter trade, he followed that occupation for two years, spending the winter months in the pine woods of Northern Michigan. Until 1884, when he was so unfortunate as to lose an arm, he followed farming and saw-milling. He then removed from the farm to Edon and for three years worked for L. W. Johnson, canvassing for agricultural implements. His next engagement was with the Walter A. Wood Reaping and Mowing Machine company, for whom he worked three years. The three following years he acted as assistant manager of the Cleveland branch of the Milwaukee Harvesting company, traveling over Eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. For four years he represented the Warder, Bushnell & Glessner company, with headquarters at Fort Wayne, Ind., two years and at Findlay, O., two years. Upon the expiration of his contract with this firm he returned to his farm and spent two years there. On August 1, 1904, he received the appointment of deputy State supervisor of elections from Secretary of State Laylin. On March 1, 1905, he took charge of the postoffice at Edon, to which office he had been appointed a short time beforehand. He is a Republican, an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, and with his wife and son William a member of the Methodist church. On September 10, 1887, he was wedded to Miss Harriet J. VanFossen, born in Northwest township, November 26, 1869. She was the daughter of William and Clarissa (Ely) VanFossen. William VanFossen was a soldier during the Civil war. He died September 14, 1877, and is survived by his widow who resides in Edon. He and wife had one son and three daughters, viz.: Harriet J., Alvin U., Mary E. and Iva I., all living. Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have three children, viz.: William F., born July 2, 1889; Mary V., May 29, 1892, and Ruth, born June 28, 1903.

HERBERT SHARP, a prominent farmer of St. Joseph township, is of Dutch descent, his ancestors having emigrated to America in an early day. Henry Sharp, the father of Herbert Sharp, was born at Albany, N. Y., January 19, 1809. In 1830 he came to Defiance county, O., and started a hotel and general store there, also one at Fort Amanda, where he traded with the Indians. In 1832 he entered land on which his son, the subject of this sketch, now resides, and several other tracts, among them the Heisler and Melba farms. At that time Solomon Lewis, the father of Sheriff Lewis, McDonald, a Scotchman, Fee and Hollin were the only residents of St. Joseph township. When in the hotel and general store business in Defiance county all of the early settlers of St. Joseph township lodged with him and bought their supplies of him. In 1836 he removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., and embarked in the wool and fur business, manufacturing hats and caps. He also took a deep interest in public affairs and was elected mayor of the city of Fort Wayne on the Independent ticket, although he himself was a Republican. He was a man of the strictest integrity and until the day of his death, June 11, 1900, was held in high esteem by all classes. He first married Louisa Olds of St. Albans, Vt., who died soon after. His second wife was Roxey Olds, a sister of his first wife, and she came with him to Fort Wayne in 1840. She is still living and resides with her son at Edgerton. They were the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters. They are: Herbert; John, deceased; Thomas Loring, who died at Clarinda, Page county, Ia., in 1890; Caroline B. of Chicago, a member of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions; Abbey, now Mrs. F. R. Morton, of Haywards, Cal., and Mrs. Baugher of Chicago. John Sharp, the grandfather of Herbert Sharp, was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1773, and on February 26, 1804, he married Mary Loring, whose father was a farmer near Boston, and after the Revolutionary war located at Albany, where he died January 26, 1815. The maternal grandfather of Herbert Sharp, Elias Olds, who married in 1808, was a soldier in the War of 1812 and died at the age of ninety-one years. The father of Mary (Loring) Sharp was Thomas Loring, who served as quartermaster of Washington's army and lost his fortune by accepting Continental money. Herbert Sharp, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., on December 31, 1852, and resided there until he was fifteen years old. In 1867 he removed to St. Joseph township and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of wooded land, which he at once proceeded to clear. Since that time he has added twenty-three acres, making a total of one hundred and eighty-three acres. In school affairs he has been quite active, having served on the board of education for some years.

He has in his possession some very interesting documents in the shape of deeds and mortgages taken by his ancestors who were bankers in Holland. Two other papers in his possession are worthy of mention: A mortgage for one hundred and seventy-three pounds sterling from Conrad Sharp, merchant, to Barent Ten Eyck, merchant of Albany, N. Y., dated June 9, 1791, and one from June Sharp and Koenrait Sharp to Barent Ten Eyck for one hundred and eighty pounds, dated July 27, 1774. He married Miss Helen A. Newman, the daughter of John Newman, a native of Germany, who came to America when he was forty years old, and located in Edgerton in 1855, residing on his farm just outside of the corporate limits until his death in 1893, at the age of seventy-eight years. He was an exemplary and public spirited citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sharp are the parents of eight children. They are: Fred Newman and Thomas Loring, partners in the hardware business at Ossian, Ind.; Herbert Moore, who graduated from the civil engineering department of Armour Institute, Chicago; Harlan Humphrey; Anthony Wayne; Helen; Esther, and Marjory, the last five being still at home. In politics Mr. Sharp is a Republican. Mrs. Sharp is a member of the Presbyterian church. Their home is one of the prettiest in the vicinity, situated near the picturesque St. Joseph river, one mile southeast of Edgerton.

WILLIAM HENRY SHINN, whose name appears as the author and editor of this volume, is descended from a long line of American ancestry. In the spring of 1677 two hundred and thirty Quakers left England on the ship Kent for West Jersey. Half of these were from London and the other half from Yorkshire. Smith, in his "History of Nova Cæsarea; or New Jersey," says that they chose as a landing place the spot where Burlington now stands, and there began a settlement which they named New Beverley. He also gives partial lists of emigrants who came between the year named above and 1680, and among them is found the name of John Shinn, the first ancestor of the Shinn family in America. From him are descended a large number who bear the name, and representatives of the family can perhaps be found in every State of the Union. But it is not within the scope of this review to follow the different branches of the family tree—brief mention alone will be made of the ancestral line through which the subject of this sketch is descended. It will perhaps be within the bounds of propriety, however, to state that the history of the family in general takes in a vast body of "plain people," who have lived by the nobler arts of peace and looked with suspicion upon the emblazoning of arms, crests, etc. In short, the life of the family has been in general a triumphantly happy farm life. The names appearing in the ancestral line with which this memoir has to do are, in their proper order, as follows: John, James, Francis, Vincent, Israel and Aaron. John Shinn was a wheelwright by trade and followed that occupation after coming to America, although he also became possessed of large land interests in Burlington county, N. J. He was a member of the Burlington Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) and for a period of more than twenty-five years his name appears with frequency in the minutes of that church organization. On the 6th of the 12th month, 1687, John Shinn and John Day were appointed to notify Daniel Leeds to bring in his paper to the Burlington Meeting before sending it to Philadelphia. The gentleman thus notified had issued an almanac, which was the first publication ever made in either New Jersey or Pennsylvania, and as it gave offense to the Friends on account of some of its "superfluities," Leeds was forced to make amends. As to the position of John Shinn in the matter there is no recorded testimony, but he executed the duty put upon him by the church and doubtless looked upon Leeds as a refractory member. This unfortunate occurrence drove a good man out of the church and a budding printing enterprise out of the colony. John Shinn was born in England in 1632, and died in Burlington county, N. J., in April, 1712. Hir wife's name was Jane and they were the parents of five sons and five daughters, all of whom were born in England before the migration to America. James Shinn was probably the youngest of the children of John Shinn. At least he lived longer than any of his brothers and sisters and died in 1751. He married Abigail Lippincott, a granddaughter of Richard Lippincott, the ancestor of the Lippincotts in America. To this marriage ten children were born, six sons and four daughters. Francis Shinn, eldest son of James Shinn, seems to have been more prominent in church affairs than any of the other children in James' family. He was born in Springfield township, Burlington county, N. J., October 25, 1706. He passed meeting regularly for marriage on September 1, 1729, his choice for a wife being Elizabeth, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Curtis) Atkinson. Of this union were born eight sons and one daughter. Vincent Shinn was the seventh child of Francis Shinn, and was born in 1745. Although a devout Quaker in religious belief he served in the Revolutionary war as a wagon-master. He married Elizabeth Budd in 1772, and died twelve years later, October 6, 1784. To this marriage there were born four sons and two daughters. Israel Shinn was the fourth child of Vincent and Elizabeth (Budd) Shinn and was born in 1780. By trade he was a carpenter. He was twice married, first on January 10, 1799, to Hannah Haines, who died in 1803; and second on February 12, 1807, to Sarah Wright. After the death of his first wife he journeyed from New Jersey to Cincinnati, in 1804, and bought lands situated in Ross county, O. He remained there but a short time and then returned to New Jersey, where he died in 1807, at the age of twenty-seven years. He had two children, a son and a daughter, by his first marriage. Aaron Shinn, the only son of Israel Shinn, and the father of him whose name introduces this sketch, was born at Mt. Holly, Burlington county, N. J., in 1803.

His mother died the same year of his birth and his father when he was but four years old, and being thus orphaned he was reared by his maternal grandmother. He learned the blacksmith trade in his youth, and in 1825 migrated to Logan county, O., where he married Susanna Hamlin. He then removed to Kosciusko county, Ind., where he followed his vocation for several years and where his wife died. In about 1855 he removed to Williams county and located in the vicinity of "Kintightown," in Northwest township, where he followed blacksmithing until his death, January 16, 1867. After coming to Williams county he was married, on March 4, 1860, to Miss Henrietta C. Speaker, daughter of David and Martha (Lynn) Speaker, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Pennsylvania. To the first marriage of Aaron Shinn four children were born, all of whom are deceased, and the same number were born to the second marriage, three of whom with their mother survive. Hannah J., the only living daughter, is the wife of Orlando Knapp and resides in Chesaning, Mich. A. Franklin, the elder son of the second marriage, resides in Jackson, Mich. William H. Shinn, the younger son, was born in Northwest township, Williams county, O., on March 19, 1867, two months and three days subsequent to the death of his father. He attended the district school and did a boy's work as a hired hand in the fields until fifteen years of age. On January 16, 1883, he entered the Enterprise office at Montpelier as an apprentice and learned the trade of a printer. In the autumn of 1885 he began teaching school, which occupation he followed until 1890, with the exception of eighteen months (beginning in August, 1887), during which time he edited the Democrat at Montpelier. During his school teaching career he taught in the States of Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan. In September, 1890, he purchased the Tribune at Newaygo, Mich., and changing its name to the Newaygo County Democrat, continued the publication until November, 1893. In June, 1894, he removed to LaGrange, Ind., and edited the Democrat at that place until January, 1896. In the spring of 1897 he entered the employ of the Northwestern Historical Association, the publishers of this volume, and has been engaged with that company the greater part of the time since. In politics, Mr. Shinn has always affiliated with the Democratic party, and in 1900 was its candidate for state senator in the LaGrange-Noble district of Indiana, but was defeated at the election. On December 25, 1891, he was united in marriage to Miss Zoe Thomas, of Montpelier, daughter of Albert P. and Nancy J. (Dole) Thomas, mention of whom is made on another page; and to this marriage one son has been born—William Thomas Shinn, born November 1, 1900. Mr. Shinn is a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias.

JAMES SILLIMAN.—More than half a century has passed since the parents of James Silliman located on the finely improved farm which is now his home, in Pulaski township, and thus he is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of Williams county, where he has resided from his youth to the present time, and where he enjoys that popular esteem which bespeaks his personal integrity and honor in all the relations of life. Mr. Silliman claims the old Keystone State of the Union as the place of his nativity, having been born on the 20th of November, 1834, in Northampton county, Pa., where also were born and reared his honored parents, Samuel and Lavina (Lockhart) Silliman, who came thence to Ohio about 1844, making the trip overland with team and wagon, by means of which they transported their household effects. They first located in Ashland county, where they remained until 1850, when they came to Williams county, and in December of that year they located on the homestead now owned by the subject of this sketch. The father here secured eighty acres of land, in section 29, Pulaski township, the entire tract being covered with heavy timber, while no improvements had been made. He was compelled to clear an opening in the midst of the forest before proceeding with the erection of his primitive log house, and he then set himself vigorously to the task of reclaiming his land to cultivation. As the years passed, prosperity crowned his efforts and he became not only one of the successful farmers of the township, but also one of its influential and popular citizens. He was a Democrat in his political proclivities, and while he did not affiliate with any church his wife was a member of the Christian church. He died in the year 1860, and his wife continued to live on the old homestead until her death, which occurred on March 20, 1887. They became the parents of ten children, namely: Theana, Miriam, Nancy, James, Thomas L., John, Nathaniel B., Scott L. Samuel and Hiram. Thomas, John and Scott are deceased; Nathaniel B. resides in Bryan, as does also Hiram, and Samuel is a resident of Oakland, Cal. James Silliman was about ten years of age at the time of his parents' removal from Pennsylvania to the wilds of Ohio, and thus his educational advantages in his youth were naturally limited in scope, though adequate for him to lay the foundation of that broad knowledge which he was later to gain in the school of experience. He was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm and has never abated his allegiance to the great fundamental industry of agriculture, and of him it has been consistently said, "He has always been a farmer and a good one." A better endorsement than this could not be asked. He remained with his parents and cared for them with true filial solicitude until both had passed to the eternal life, and he is now the owner of the old homestead, endeared to him through the associations of many years. The place comprises one hundred and sixty acres of most fertile land, and all is available for cultivation except about twenty-six acres, being devoted to diversified farming and to the raising of high-grade live stock, while the buildings are substantial and properly equipped, making this one of the model farms of Pulaski township. Ever interested in all that appertains to the well-being of the community, Mr. Silliman is essentially public-spirited, and his political faith is that of the Democracy. While he has never sought political preferment he has served as township trustee and supervisor and also as school director, and is one of the leaders of his party in the township, where his friends are in number equal to the list of his acquaintances. On January 11, 1863, Mr. Silliman was united in marriage to Miss Emeline Himes, daughter of John and Catharine Himes, at that time residents of Pulaski township, Williams county. Mr. and Mrs. Silliman became the parents of three children—Orwell James, who was graduated from the law department of the University of Cincinnati, was a prominent and honored member of the bar of Williams county where he was engaged in the practice of his profession at Bryan up to the time of his death, which sad event occurred May 20, 1898; Almon W. is an engineer on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and resides in Garrett, Ind.; and Alice I. is the wife of Dr. John W. Sides, a prominent physician of Annawan, Ill.

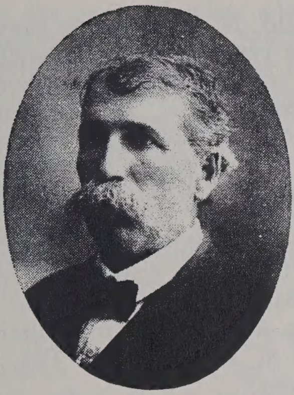
CLYDE LAVONIUS SIPLE, the popular carrier on rural mail route No. 3, from Montpelier, also has the distinction of being the secretary of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association of Williams county, within whose borders his life has been passed thus far, and his circle of friends is circumscribed only by that of his acquaintances. He was born in West Unity, this county, on the 26th of April, 1876, and is a son of Clinton L. and Serelda A. (Hager) Siple. His paternal grandfather was Joseph Siple, who came to Ohio from Pennsylvania, residing for a brief interval in Williams county and then removing to Montcalm county, Mich., where he remained until 1868, when he returned to Williams county, where he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1882. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Smalley, died in 1868. They had four children: Clinton L., Ellen, John and William. Clinton L. Siple received a common-school education, and as a young man he found employment in the saw-mills at West Unity, where he was engaged for a period of eleven years. For the ensuing eighteen years he was identified with the agricultural industry in this county until April, 1897, when he again took up mill life in the employ of C. H. Boon & Co., where he is still employed. He is a stanch Republican, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the adjunct lodge of Daughters of Rebekah, and his religious faith is that of the United Brethren church, of which his wife also was a devoted member. April 23, 1873, he was married to Miss Serelda A. Hager, daughter of William B. and Amanda (Pennington) Hager, of Williams county, O., and she died October 19, 1896, being survived by her two sons, of whom Clyde L. is the younger. Walter P., who resides in Van Wert, O., married Miss Bell Dorshimer, daughter of George Dorshimer, of Jefferson township, and they have three children—Lena, Helen and Frank. Clyde L. Siple attended the public schools of West Unity until he had attained the age of nine years and later continued his studies in the schools of Superior township. After leaving school he held a position as salesman in a mercantile establishment in Montpelier for a period of five years, after which he secured appointment to his present position, in which he has served most acceptably since 1902, having one of the important rural mail routes of the county. He is a stanch adherent of the Republican party, in whose cause he takes a lively interest. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is affiliated with the local organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic order, while Mrs. Siple, as well as himself, is identified with the Order of the Eastern Star. January 23, 1902, Mr. Siple was united in marriage to Miss Fannie H. Allman, daughter of Jacob and Hattie (Friend) Allman, of Superior township, and they have a winsome little daughter, Carrol Lucille.

ISAAC N. SKELTON, retired building contractor of Edgerton, was born at North Industry, Stark county, O., in 1840. He is the son of John and Catherine (Steinmetz) Skelton, both natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal and maternal grandfather were respectively John Skelton and John Steinmetz, the latter having served with credit in the Revolutionary war. John Skelton was born in Franklin county, Pa., early in the nineteenth century, and removed to Stark county when a young man. In 1840 he came to St. Joseph township and settled on land that was entirely in the woods, which he at once proceeded to clear and bring to a high state of cultivation, equipping it with all the buildings necessary to successful farming. At North Industry he operated a large six-burr flour mill run by water power, the building being a six-story wooden structure. The products of this mill soon became so popular that the farmers for miles around patronized him. He died at his home in 1862, highly esteemed by all who knew him. He and wife were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living: William, Isaac N., Caroline, Rachel, Mary, John and James Grear. Isaac N. Skelton was reared on his father's farm, receiving a fair public school education. Having learned the building trade he followed that occupation in Edgerton for some years with marked success, as the number and character of the buildings erected by him indicate. In answer to his country's call for volunteers he enlisted first in the Thirty-eighth Ohio infantry, serving ten months, and afterwards in the One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Ohio, serving four and one-half months, when he was mustered out of the service at Camp Bradford, Md., by virtue of the close of the war. He took part in the Battle of Stone River and several other important engagements. As a matter of course he takes a deep interest in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is actively identified with Post No. 568, at Edgerton. After the close of the war he returned to his farm and gave his undivided attention to its successful management. In 1901 he removed to Edgerton, where he lives a contented and retired life. He was wedded in Florence township to Miss Margaret, the daughter of Thomas and Caroline (Bratton) Day. Their marriage has been blessed with these children: Jennie, now Mrs. Monroe Enterline, of St. Joseph township; Ida, the wife of Max Fisher, of Toledo, O.; Oma, the wife of Eugene Bryant, of DeKalb county, Ind.; Oda, now Mrs. Robnett, of Toledo, O., and Archie I., a machinist and musician of Toledo, O. Mr. and Mrs. Skelton are members of the United Brethren church.

WILLIAM R. SLAYBAUGH, a prominent citizen and official of Montpelier, is of German extraction, his ancestors having emigrated to America in a very early day, settling in Pennsylvania. His grandparents were John George and Mary Magdalena (Fair) Slaybaugh, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Maryland, where she was born in 1787. The Slaybaugh family came from Perry county, Pa., to Ohio about the year 1828, when William Slaybaugh, the father of the subject of this sketch, was fifteen years old, and settled in Richland county. His maternal grandfather was George Rank, who came to Richland county in 1831. Both families followed the occupation of farming and the grandparents on both sides died on the farms on which they first settled. The parents of William R. were William and Sarah (Rank) Slaybaugh, who spent their lives in Richland county, both dying in Shelby, the father on May 29, 1893, and the mother on January 18, 1898. The former was born September 5, 1813, and the latter on March 8, 1820. They were the parents of the following children: Derial Bruce, still a resident of Shelby; George E., of Montpelier; Ida S., the wife of J. J. Shultz, of Enon Valley, Pa., William R. and Catherine Elizabeth, the latter being the wife of Max Dickerson, of Shelby. William R. Slaybaugh was born in Shelby, Richland county, on May 25, 1856. He was reared in his native town and educated in its public schools. His first work was on the farm, where he remained four years. In 1882 he removed to Bloomville, Seneca county, O., and engaged in the manufacture of bricks, continuing there until the spring of 1884, when he removed to Montpelier, and there he has since continued in the same line of business, adding a cider mill in 1887. In 1887 he was elected to the city council of Montpelier, re-elected in 1889, and served almost continuously up to 1899. In 1890 he was elected for a term of three years to the city school board. Since 1899 he has served continuously as a trustee of the water works. Mr. Slaybaugh is prominently identified with the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities, having passed the chairs of the Masonic lodge twice and those of the Odd Fellow lodge twice. In religious matters he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma R. Hill, born August 30, 1859, the daughter of Louis and

Sarah (Weagley) Hill, the latter deceased. Mrs. Slaybaugh died November 7, 1891. To these parents there were born the following children: William Asher, a resident of Montpelier; Brenard T., of Butte, Mont., and Maude, Carl, Esther and Ruth, all still at home.

JAMES SNOW, who gained independence and definite prosperity through long identification with the great fundamental industry of agriculture, is now living retired in the village of Pioneer, where he has a pleasant home and is enjoying the rewards of his former years of application. He was born in Lysander township, Onondaga county, N. Y., on the 1st of August, 1828, and is a son of Isaac and Ruth (Elliott) Snow, who immigrated to the west in 1839, locating on a pioneer farm five miles west of Morenci, Lenawee county, Mich., whence they come to Williams county in 1844, taking up their residence in Bridgewater township, where the father reclaimed a farm of one hundred acres, the land having been heavily timbered at the time when he secured possession of the same. Both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in this county, honored by all who knew them. James Snow secured his rudimentary education in his native county in New York and later attended the common schools in Michigan and Ohio, while he early became inured to the sturdy work of clearing land and assisting in its cultivation. He removed to Hillsdale county, Mich., and there continued as a successful farmer until 1887, when he returned to Williams county and took up his residence in Pioneer, where he has since lived practically retired, having accumulated a competency through his farming and stock-raising operations. In 1864 he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge. Up to the time of the Civil war he affiliated with the Democracy, but since that time has given an unqualified allegiance to the Republican party. He has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church for more than forty years, and his wife has been a member of the same since she was fourteen years of age, while his first wife was likewise a devoted member of the church. He first married Miss Elizabeth Alfred, who was born in Geauga county, O., March 27, 1834, and who was a resident of Hillsdale county, Mich., at the time of her marriage. She died and is survived by two sons, Pomeroy and Sylvester. In 1887 Mr. Snow was united in marriage to Mrs. Elvira Loretta Doolittle, daughter of Erastus Eggleston, who was an honored pioneer of Williams county. Her first husband, Samuel A. Doolitte, died in this county, April 22, 1864, at the age of thirty-seven years, leaving two daughters, Ida Amelia and Eva Melissa. No children have been born of the second marriage.



JOHN K. STAUFFER.

JOHN K. STAUFFER, a successful and thrifty farmer of Center township, was born near his present homestead on August 3, 1848. He is the son of Samuel and Susannah (Miller) Stauffer, both natives of Lancaster county, Pa. His grandparents were Samuel and Susannah (Kiser) Stauffer, both natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Wayne county, O., in 1834, and both died there. His maternal grandparents, Christopher and Susannah (Killinger) Miller, both natives of Pennsylvania, removed from their native State first to Stark county, O., then to Wayne county and finally to Williams county in 1845, and settled on the farm of one hundred and eighty-four acres, on which John K. Stauffer was born. He and wife were ardent members of the German Reformed church. Here he died in 1868, aged eighty years, and his wife in 1878, aged eighty-six years. Samuel Stauffer, the father of John K. Stauffer, had the benefit of a fair common-school education and chose farming as his avocation. In the spring of 1848 he came to Williams county and located on the farm which his son, the subject of this sketch, now owns. In politics he was an enthusiastic Democrat. He died on July 21, 1874, and is survived by his widow who is now in her eightieth year. To them were born six children, four of whom are now living. John K. Stauffer grew to manhood on a farm and was educated in the common-schools. Twelve years he spent in Montana, where he was engaged in the sheep-raising business, owning at one time three thousand five hundred head of sheep on his ranch. While engaged in this enterprise he made fifty-one round trips from his farm to Montana, the distance being seventeen hundred miles. While he shipped a great many sheep of his own he was also engaged in shipping for other parties. During his stay in the West he spent three months in California. In 1904 he settled on the old homestead, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, now owned by him, which he has greatly improved by erecting substantial buildings on it, and which he has also brought to a high state of cultivation. In politics he is identified with the Populist party. On March 19, 1874, he was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Hagemann, born in Crawford county, O., March 8, 1854, the daughter of Frederick and Sophia (Overlander) Hagemann, the latter born in 1831, and both natives of Germany. They came to the United

MATILDA STAUFFER.

States in 1853 and lived one year in Buffalo, N. Y., whence they removed to Crawford county, O., and twelve years later to Defiance county. He was a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. He died on the homestead May 19, 1900, and his wife on December 28, of the same year. To them were born nine children, of whom four sons and four daughters are yet living, one having died in infancy. John K. Stauffer and wife have had six children. Their names follow: Samuel M., who died in 1893, in Montana, aged eighteen years and four months, but was buried in Bryan, O.; Gertrude, now the wife of William O'Brien, residing at Cut Bank, Mont. They were married July 5, 1899. Delbert K., Magnolia, who was married to Walter Mann on April 19, 1905, and now resides at Big Springs, Tex.; John L., and the youngest, who died in infancy.

WILLIAM H. STAUFFER, a prosperous farmer of near Bryan, was born in East Union township, Wayne county, O., on May 9, 1846, and is the son of Samuel Stauffer, a sketch of whose life appears in the preceding review. William H. Stauffer grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools of his home county. He chose farming as his life's calling, and since 1892 has owned a farm of eighty acres of very fertile and valuable land seven miles northwest of Bryan. General farming and stock raising constitute his occupation, at both of which he has been unusually successful. In political affairs he as a Democrat has always taken a deep interest in his party's success and has held the office of township trustee for two terms. Together with his wife he is a charter member of Grange, No. 444, both having joined that organization in 1874. On October 26, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Azuba Paine, who was born in Huron county, O., on December 8, 1848, and is the daughter of Ira and Electa (Birdsill) Paine, the former born in Vermont in 1810 and the latter in New York. Ira Paine is the son of Rufus and Azuba (Sanderson) Paine, both natives of Vermont and among the earliest settlers of Huron county, where they located in 1817. His wife died in 1856 and he survived her two years. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Stauffer were Isaac and Anna (Thurston) Birdsill, the former a native of New York. They settled in Huron county, in an early day, where he died. His widow, who died in Williams county in 1877, afterwards married John Smothers, who died in Delaware county, O. Ira Paine was reared on a farm and had the benefit of a fair common school education. In 1869 he came to Williams county and settled in Center township. In politics he was identified with the Republican party and with his wife was a member of the Christian church. He died on the homestead in 1884 and his widow still resides there at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. They were the parents of six children, of whom four are still living. To William H. Stauffer and wife there have been born two children. Jessie, the elder, was born July 17, 1874, and was educated in the Montpelier high school. She taught four terms of school in the same district, which is the best of evidence that she was a successful teacher. She is now the wife of Adelbert Leu of Montpelier. They have four children, the names of whom follow: Freda, Carson, Oneta and Karline. Otiwell Clyde, the younger, was born June 21, 1877, and was educated in the common schools and the Montpelier high school. He is a farmer by occupation and owns sixty acres of land in Center township. During the winter months he teaches, having followed that calling for eight years. His wife was Miss Lulu Jaques of Williams county, the daughter of H. L. Jaques, mentioned elsewhere in this work. To them one child has been born, Dale by name.

JOHN H. SMITLEY, manager of the Denman tile and brick works, in West Unity, and the owner of a good farm in Brady township, is one of the worthy and popular business men of this section, where he has resided for the greater portion of the time since his boyhood. He was born in Columbiana county, O., October [illegible]9, 1850, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Cook) Smitley, the former of whom was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1811, while the latter was born in Columbiana county, O., where their marriage was solemnized. They came to Williams county in 1863 livingliving. John K. Stauffer grew to manhood on a farm and and settled on a farm of sixty-two and one-half acres, in Brady township, north of West Unity, where they passed the remainder of their lives, being held in high esteem in the community and both being consistent members of the Christian church, while the father was a Republican in politics and a loyal citizen, though never an aspirant for office. He made a success of his farming enterprise, and he passed his last days in retirement, in West Unity, where he died on the 13th of January, 1898, his wife having been summoned to the life eternal in 1892. They became the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living. John H. Smitley secured his early education in the public schools of West Unity, and was reared to the discipline of the home farm. After initiating his independent career he continued to be identified with farming about six years and he then entered the employ of W. I. Pepple, in the manufacturing of brick and tile, assisting in the building of the factory and continuing with this concern about one year, after which he was employed about two years by the firm of Neff & Holtzberger, of West Unity. He and Mr. J. G. Neff then engaged in the meat business in this city, continuing operations about two years, after which they were associated in the manufacturing of tile and brick for four years, at the expiration of which they sold out to Dr. William M. Denman and L. B. Kent, in whose employ Mr. Smitley continued for the ensuing five years. For the following two years he was employed in the tube works at Shelby, O., then returning to West Unity and being employed at the Denman tile and brick works for four years. He then passed one year on his farm, since which time he has been manager and superintendent of the Denman plant, as noted in the opening sentences of this sketch. He also owns the old homestead farm of sixty-two and one-half acres, on which he was reared, and the same is well improved and under effective cultivation. Mr. Smitley is an uncompromising Republican, and he served two terms as a member of the city council of West Unity and one year as a member of the board of education. He is affiliated with Superior Lodge No. 179, Free and Accepted Masons, and Evergreen Lodge No. 637, Knights of Pythias. November 11, 1874, Mr. Smitley married Miss Ellen Ferguson, of Shelby, Richland county, and they became the parents of three children—William, who died in infancy; Erma, who died at the age of seven years; and Fay, who was five years of age at the time of death. Further bereavement came to Mr. Smitley on the 13th of February, 1899, when his loved and devoted wife was summoned into eternal rest.

ARTHUR E. SMITH, proprietor of a livery and dray line at Edgerton, is the son of John and Almira (Spangler) Smith, both natives of Center township, where the homestead is still owned by Mrs. Smith. John Smith was quite prominent in public affairs and eminently successful in dealing in live stock. He died in May, 1880, aged thirty-seven years. George Smith, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, in an early day removed from his native state, New York, to Ohio and settled on a farm in the same township in which his son and grandson were born, and he lived there the remainder of his days. Jacob Spangler, the maternal grandfather of Arthur E. Smith, came from Germany directly to Center township, where he entered land and in time became quite prominent in public affairs. A large family of children survives him, all of whom are engaged in farming and other occupations. Arthur E. Smith was born in Center township, January 12, 1866, and when quite small removed with his parents to Edgerton, where he grew to manhood and received a fair education. The first work that he did for himself was on a farm in St. Joseph township, where he continued for some years and then returned to Edgerton. For the past sixteen years he has been engaged in the livery and draying business and has met with unusual success, his knowledge of horses aiding him materially. In public affairs he has taken a prominent part, having been elected and re-elected to the office of constable on the Republican ticket. In the work of the Knights of Pythias he is deeply interested. He married Miss Cora R. Neidhart, the daughter of Lewis and Regina Neidhart, of Defiance county. They have had three children, named Gladys E., Mable E. and Arthur O., all being still at home.

FREDERICK SMITH, one of the substantial farmers and stockgrowers of Brady township, where he has lived from his childhood days, is representative of that loyal citizenship which has so signally conserved the advancement of the best interests of Williams county, and consistency is maintained in according him recognition in this publication. In the sketch dedicated to his younger brother, George Smith, appearing below, due genealogical data are given, so that a further record concerning the family history is not demanded at this juncture. Frederick Smith was born in Germany, on the 26th of December, 1844, and is the eldest son of Adam Smith. When he was but three years of age his parents took up their residence in Williams county, and here he was reared to the sturdy labors of the farm and secured a common-school education, while he has never withdrawn his allegiance to the agricultural industry, through which he has gained independence and definite prosperity. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, having purchased the property in 1865 and having reclaimed much of the land from its wild state. He has made the best of improvements on the place, including the erection of good buildings, and maintains the land under a high state of cultivation, while he also gives special attention to the breeding of high-grade draft horses. In politics Mr. Smith is a stalwart Republican, and in 1900 he served as land appraiser. He and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he has been identified since he was fifteen years of age, and he served as Sunday-school superintendent for thirty years and as class leader for six years. For the past nine years he has been a director of the Brady Insurance Company, a substantial and well managed local institution. December 28, 1865, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Catherine Figgins, who was born in Richland county, O., November 11, 1846, being a daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Fidler) Figgins, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they came to Ohio in the '30's, and in 1847 Mr. Figgins came to Williams county and purchased a tract of eighty acres of wild land, upon which he and his family located two years later. He reclaimed his land and became one of the well-to-do farmers of Brady township, where he died in 1879, his wife having passed away in 1877. He was a Democrat in politics and he and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their five children two are living. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of five children, namely: Mary E., Effie (deceased in infancy), Lydia, Arthur E., and Ellen M., the last named having died on the 21st of October, 1903.

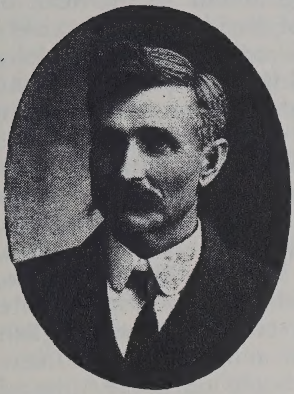
GEORGE SMITH is one of the leading business men and representative citizens of West Unity, where he has capitalistic and industrial interests of an important nature, testifying alike to his individual enterprise and to his interest in the general welfare of the community. Mr. Smith was born in West Unity, on the 31st of March, 1855, and has passed his entire life in Williams county. He is a son of Adam and Katherine (Drum) Smith, both of whom were born in Germany, the former on the 31st of March, 1820, and the latter was born on the 21st of the same month and year. Adam Smith died March 5, 1905, and his venerable widow still maintains her home in West Unity. Adam Smith was a son of Frederick Smith, who passed his entire life in Germany, dying at the age of eighty-two years. The original German spelling of the name was Schmidt. The maternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch were Peter and Elizabeth (Bauer) Drum, the former having met his death by drowning. His widow and ten children came to America about 1857 and settled in Brady township, Williams county, and members of the family were prominently concerned in the organization of the German Methodist church in this township. Mrs. Drum passed to the life eternal in October, 1861, and her descendants are now very numerous in Williams county. Adam Smith came from Sandusky county to Williams county in April, 1848, making the trip with team and wagon and being accompanied by his wife and their two children, the other four children having been born in Williams county. Adam Smith purchased eighty acres of land in Brady township, and hired men to clear the same, having been a wagonmaker by trade and having followed this vocation to a greater or less extent for a number of years after locating in this county. He was a Republican in politics, having joined the party ranks soon after the organization was effected, and he and his family have been prominent and valued members of the German Methodist church, in which he was a class-leader for nearly a half century. The six children all reside in Brady township, and within a radius of two miles from the old homestead farm, their names, in order of birth, being as follows: Frederick, Peter, Elizabeth, Jacob, Adam and George. George Smith passed his boyhood days on the home farm and was afforded the advantages of the public schools of his native county. When seventeen years of age he became a salesman in the general merchandise store of Hollington & Elliott, of West Unity, remaining with this firm for nine years and then becoming associated with Robert W. Lant Ely in the purchase of the stock and business. Lant Ely was employed as a salesman with Hollington & Elliott at the same time Mr. Smith was and when they united as partners in business they succeeded Hollington & Elliott. They removed the goods into a frame building which stood on the site of the present store of Leland B. Kent. This building was destroyed by fire, on the 2d of August, 1888, and Messrs. Smith & Ely then erected the building now occupied by Mr. Kent, who owns the property. Mr. Smith disposed of his interests in the building and business in 1889. For two years thereafter he owned and operated the local creamery, after which he devoted his attention to farming until 1893, when he engaged in the grain business and in the manufacturing of boat oars. In December, 1898, he disposed of his interest in the manufacturing enterprise, but he has since continued in the grain business, which has grown to extensive proportions, and in 1899 he purchased the flour mill of Rings & Beach, which he has since operated, in connection with his well equipped grain elevator. In 1902 Mr. Smith was instrumental in the organization of the West Unity Manufacturing Company, in which he is one of the principal stockholders, the concern being engaged in the manufacturing of house furnishings and boat oars. He is the owner of ninety acres of valuable land in Brady township, a portion of the tract lying within the corporate limits of West Unity. In politics he gives his allegiance to the Republican party, but he is an uncompromising adversary of the liquor traffic and his views are in harmony with the principles of the Prohibition party, though he believes that reforms must largely come through one of the dominant political bodies rather than a third party. He has served many years as a member of the school board and takes a deep interest in the educational affairs of the community. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mrs. Smith is identified with the Presbyterian church. September 19, 1883, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Julia Wilson, who was born in the state of New York, a daughter of William and Lydia (Fanning) Wilson, both of whom died in Canandaigua, that State. Her maternal grandparents passed their entire lives in Rushville, N. Y., where her only sister now resides. Mrs. Smith was graduated in the high school at Ann Arbor, Mich., and was a successful teacher in the West Unity schools prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have five children—Frederick G., Clara, George, Jr., Paul and Julia, the eldest son being now a student in the Ohio State University, in Columbus.

DANIEL B. STEWART, M. D., is one of the venerable and highly honored members of the medical profession in Williams county, where he was engaged in active practice for more than forty years, and he has been a resident of the county for more than half a century and is well known in all parts of the same, through his long continued and self-abnegating ministrations as a physician. The Doctor was born in Columbiana county, O., on the 16th of September, 1824, and is a son of John and Catherine (Pepple) Stewart, the former of whom was born in Maryland and the latter in Columbiana county, O., where their marriage was solemnized. Matthew Stewart, grandfather of the Doctor, was a pioneer of Columbiana county, where he died, and in that county also died John and Catherine Stewart, both having been devoted members of the Reformed church, and the father was a Democrat in his political proclivities and a farmer by vocation. Of the seven children in the family there are living: Daniel B., subject of this sketch; Sarah, the wife of Jeremiah Bates, of Columbiana county; and Henrietta, the wife of Andrew Thomas, of Salem, that county. Dr. Stewart was reared to the sturdy of discipline of the home farm, and his preliminary education was secured in the typical log school house, with its puncheon floor, slab benches and wide fireplace, and he remained at the parental home until he had attained the age of twenty-six years. He prepared himself for the medical profession through effective study and clinical work under able preceptors, and he is known as one of the able pioneer physicians of Williams county. He here took up his residence in September, 1851, locating on his present fine farmstead, which comprises eighty acres, in sections 15 and 16, Jefferson township. He reclaimed the land to cultivation and has made excellent improvements on the property, and has ever given his personal supervision to its work and management, though finding in the earlier days an insistent demand upon his time and attention in his professional labors, which called him forth in all kinds of weather, day and night, over often almost impassable roads, entailing the greatest of personal discomfort, which he cheerfully bore that he might relieve distress and suffering. It is thus but natural that he is held in affectionate regard in the county where he has labored so long and so faithfully, and he is now practically retired, having passed the age of four score years. In 1850 Dr. Stewart was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Millwert, who proved a devoted wife and helpmeet until death severed the silver cord of her gracious life, her demise occurring in 1871. Of the three children of this union the following record is given: Sarah Jane, who remains at the parental home, was a teacher for a number of years and is a lady of culture and gracious presence; Emma, who became the wife of Jason Crow, died in 1903; and John Henry is engaged in the meat-market business at Montpelier, this county. Dr. Stewart is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and he served nine years as treasurer of Jefferson township, while he was also school director for a number of years.

GEORGE W. AND PETER O. STIVING are so intimately associated in their farming and stock-growing operations, owning one of the fine landed estates of Madison township, that they may appropriately be mentioned in the same connection in this publication, and they are to be noted as sterling representatives of one of the honored pioneer families of Williams county. They are sons of Philip and Leah (Dohm) Stiving, the former of whom was born in Baden, Germany, on the 9th of May, 1821, and the latter was born in York county, Pa., in 1823, having been a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Dohm. Christian Dohm came to America in the Colonial era from Germany, and he served as a valiant soldier in the Continental line during the Revolution. He continued his residence in Pennsylvania for a number of years and then came to Crawford county, O., where he became a pioneer farmer. He passed the closing years of his life in Williams county, where he died in 1859, and here his wife passed away in 1868. Philip Stiving was a son of Jacob and Savilla (Weidner) Stiving, or Stibing, as the name was originally spelled, and was a lad of thirteen years at the time of his parents' immigration to America, in 1834. They located near Shelby, Richland county, O., where the father reclaimed and improved one of the best farms of the county, there continuing to reside until his death, which occurred in 1875. His wife survived him by a number of years, passing the closing years of her life with her children, in Williams county, where she died at the venerable age of eighty-nine years. Both were members of the German Reformed church. They became the parents of five children, all now deceased. Philip Stiving and Leah Dohm were married in 1845, and they continued to reside in Richland county until 1856, when they came to Williams county and settled on a tract of eighty acres of wild land, in Madison township. He had purchased this property in 1851, for two hundred and fifty dollars. He not only reclaimed this place from the wilderness but became the owner of other land, which he likewise improved, having been the owner of four hundred and ten acres at the time of his death. Concerning Philip Stiving the following words of appreciation have been written and are well worthy of perpetuation in this connection: "On starting out in life for himself he was without capital, but with the aid of a devoted and faithful companion he met with success in his undertakings and at his death left a large and valuable estate to his children. In 1856 he moved to Williams county, locating on the farm where his sons are now living. Five years previously he had made a trip on horseback to this county, and at that time purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land. Soon afterward he contracted to have forty acres of timber slashed and deadened, but on locating here he had to cut a road a mile in length in order to move his household effects by wagon to his new home. Finding an old log shanty near his land, he fixed it up and lived there until the following season, when he built a hewed-log house on the place. In later years he erected on the old homestead, comprising two hundred and forty acres, a commodious two-story brick residence, a large barn and substantial out-buildings, making it one of the most desirable farms of the locality. He was a popular man, widely and favorably known, a stanch Democrat in politics, for a number of years served as township trustee, and also filled many minor offices of honor and trust. He became a member of the German Reformed church when twenty-one years of age, and was ever after a true and consistent Christian. His wife also believed as he did: That if we do right in this life we will receive our reward in the life to come, whether we are members of church or not. During the early times in this county wild game was to be had in abundance, and he killed all kinds of game for his own use." Philip Stiving was summoned to eternal rest on the 12th of March, 1888, and his devoted wife passed away on the 6th of the following October. They became the parents of eight children, all of whom are living: Catherine E. is the wife of Philip Weidner, of Madison township; Jacob W. is a representative farmer of the same township; Mary is the wife of William Traxler, of the same township; George W. is mentioned later on; Sarah A. is the wife of Wesley B. Greek, a prominent resident of Madison township; Peter O. is one of the subjects of this sketch; Emma J. is the wife of Jefferson D. Keller, of Madison township; and Savilla L. is the wife of John Kunkle, of Madison township. George W. Stiving was born in Richland county, O., January 15, 1851, and he was thus about seven years of age at the time of the family removal to Williams county. He was reared to manhood on the home farm and early began to assist in its development and cultivation, and his educational advantages were those afforded in the local schools. He and his brother, Peter O., have been associated in their farming and stock business for many years and are the owners of a fine landed estate of three hundred acres, the old homestead secured by their honored father so many years ago. They have kept the place up to the highest standard and are numbered among the most progressive farmers of the county. For some time they gave special attention to the buying and shipping of stock, but they have practically withdrawn from this field of enterprise. George W. Stiving was married on October 21, 1888, when Miss Anna Kiser became his wife. She was born and reared in Fulton county, having been a daughter of John Kiser, a successful farmer of that county. The only child of this union died in infancy, and the mother passed away three years later, on the 4th of January, 1893, since which time Mr. Stiving has made his home with his brother, Peter O. Both are stanch adherents of the Democratic party and keep well informed on the questions and issues of the hour, and both have been called upon to serve in offices of local trust and responsibility. One of the unique and attractive features of the Stiving homestead is the fine deer park of four acres, in which the brothers have been very successful in the raising of the beautiful deer, such as formerly ran wild through this section. Peter O. Stiving's early training and education were practically the same as that of his brother, and during their years of intimate association in business the most amicable devotion has been shown and their mutual fealty has been unwavering. August 15, 1878, Peter O. was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Kunkle, who was born and reared in Williams county, a daughter of Henry S. Kunkle, to whom reference is made elsewhere in this work. She died in February, 1881, leaving no children. In 1887, Mr. Stiving married Miss Mary E. Wallace, who was born in Millcreek township, this county, January 22, 1868, being a daughter of Lockwood M. and Emily (Stantz) Wallace, the former of whom was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., September 13, 1842, and the latter was born in Crawford county, O., July 13, 1845, their marriage being solemnized November 26, 1863, in Williams county. Lockwood M. Wallace was a son of Samuel and Mary T. (Alvord) Wallace who were numbered among the pioneers of Williams county, and here he was actively identified with farming during the greater portion of his active career. He finally retired from farming, passing the closing years of his life in the village of Kunkle, where he died at the home of his daughter, Mary E. Stiving, on the 26th of December, 1903. He served one and one-half years as a Union soldier in the Civil war, and his political views at the time of his death were those of which William J. Bryan has been the chief exponent. He was a consistent member of the United Brethren church, as was also his wife, who died June 9, 1899. Three daughters survive the honored father. Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Stiving have five children, whose names, with respective dates of birth, are here entered: Martha Belle, January 2, 1888; Grover Cleveland, July 31, 1891: Bessie R., April 17, 1894; Dorothy Reed, March 3, 1899; and Justus Omer, March 8, 1903.

ELI STONER, owner of one of the finest farms in Jefferson township, Williams county, is a native son of the old Buckeye state, which he has honored by his life and services, having won a distinctive success through his own efforts and having so ordered his course as to command at all times the respect and confidence of his fellow men. Mr. Stoner was born in Stark county, O., on the 20th of October, 1832, and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Oberlin) Stoner, the former of whom was born in York county, Pa., and the latter in Cumberland county, Pa. As a lad of sixteen years Charles Stoner removed from Pennsylvania to Stark county, O., where he was reared to maturity and where he worked at the carpenter trade for a number of years. About 1837 he removed to Wood county, where he purchased a tract of wild land, which he reclaimed to cultivation, and in 1860 sold out and removed to Stark county, where he bought one hundred and twenty-five acres of tillable land. There he and wife continued to reside until their respective deaths, honored by all who knew them. They became the parents of seven children, namely: Jonathan, who is a farmer of Stark county; Eli, who figures as the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, who is the wife of John Oberlin, of the same county; Susanna, whose first husband was William Basum and her second husband was William Caldwell, both deceased. She now resides in Dalton, Wayne county; Elizabeth, who was first married to Ephraim Groop and after his death she married James Garman and resides in Stark county; Margaret, who is the wife of John Gouchenhour, and they reside in Wayne county; Sophia, who first married Jacob Rease, and after his death she married George Neff and they reside in Stark county, O. Eli Stoner received a common school education in the pioneer schools, and he continued to be associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm until he had attained to the age of thirty-two years. He resided in Stark county until 1881, when he came to Williams county and purchased his present farm, upon which he has made many improvements, making it one of the best in the county. The place comprises one hundred and fifty-five acres, all available for cultivation, and Mr. Stoner gives his attention to diversified agriculture and to the raising of live stock, and his energy and good management enable him to gain the maximum returns from his farming enterprise. He is a Democrat in his political proclivities. In 1867 Mr. Stoner was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Heister, daughter of John Heister, a prosperous farmer of Stark county, and of this union have been born seven children: Ira, who is a physician and surgeon, is engaged in the practice of his profession at Ransom, Hillsdale county, Mich. He married Miss Elizabeth Hoover and they have one daughter, Nellie. Sanford is a successful school teacher and is engaged in pedagogic work in Leadville, Colo.; Laura is the wife of Arthur Beerbower, and they reside with Mr. Stoner and have two children, Ava and Howard. Cora is the wife of Clarence Shiffler, of Pulaski township, and they have one child, Gladys. William C., who married Miss Olive Shafer, and has one child, Ardis, is preparing himself for the medical profession, and is now at Vilas, Kan.; Albert remains on the homestead farm, and Thurman is preparing to enter Ann Arbor University.

CHARLES W. STOY, a prosperous and prominent farmer, is a native of Williams county, O., where he was born on the old homestead, near Bryan, on January 1, 1857. He is the son of William and Elizabeth (Keesey) Stoy, both natives of Tuscarawas county, O. After their marriage in 1850 they removed to Williams county in 1854 and settled on the farm now owned by their son, C. W. Stoy. As the land on which he settled was all in the woods, he went to work at once to clear and improve it. During his lifetime William Stoy erected substantial buildings on it and brought it to a high state of cultivation, and was rated one of the substantial farmers of the county. In politics he was identified with the Republican party, and with his wife he was a member of the Evangelical Association. He died on the homestead September 8, 1898, his wife having died four years earlier. To them were born nine children, seven of whom are still living. C. W. Stoy grew to manhood on his father's farm and received a fair common school education. Having been thoroughly trained in the occupation of farming by his father, and finding the work agreeable to his taste, he chose it as his life work, determined to succeed as his father before him had done. As his father was an ardent Republican it is but natural that the son should have the same political views. He is the owner of the homestead, consisting of eighty-three acres of some of the finest land in the county. This was not given him by his father, but was purchased by him. In 1882 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Steward of Williams county, by whom he has had two children, named Della and Ray. All that Mr. Stoy possesses he has made by his own effort. By practicing industry and economy he has acquired a competency.



REV. W. J. STOY.

REV. W. J. STOY, a prominent preacher and a successful farmer of Center township, was born on the old homestead in Williams county on February 16, 1855. His father was William Stoy, mention of whom is made in the preceding review. W. J. Stoy grew to manhood on a farm and received only a limited education in the common schools of his native county. This school training he has supplemented by hard earnest study, so that he may really be called a self-educated man. This learning he has put to good use by preaching the Gospel. At the age of twenty-one years he became a member of the United Brethren church and four years later of the Conference of that organization. For twelve years he gave his undivided attention to the ministry and since then has devoted a part of his time to general farming. His farm of two hundred acres is well equipped with all the necessary buildings, well stocked and in a high state of cultivation, proving that he is a progressive farmer as well as a successful preacher. This double occupation, as might be expected, makes him a very busy man. For some time he was identified with the Republican party, but of late years he has been an Independent, voting for such men as were, in his judgment, best fitted for the positions they sought. The only political office that he has ever filled is that of township assessor. On December 30, 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Cynthia E. Hughes, who was born in Williams county in November, 1856, and is the daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Albert) Hughes, both natives of Seneca county, O., where the former was born in 1829. They removed to Williams county in an early day. Ephraim Hughes was a farmer by occupation, a Republican in politics and with his wife a member of the United Brethren church. He died in 1901 and his widow still survives. They had eleven children, of whom six are living. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Stoy was Thomas Hughes, a native of Ireland and a pioneer of Seneca county, where he met a violent death, having been killed at a railroad crossing. To Reverend Stoy and wife there have been born seven children, six of whom are living. They are: Maude B., George Firman, Beulah Blanche, Florence Mildred, Celitia Esther, Frank Estel and Walter Jennings.

CYNTHIA E. STOY.

NATHANIEL B. STUBBS, M. D., who stands at the head of the drug firm of N. B. Stubbs & Son, of Stryker, was actively engaged in the practice of medicine in this community for a long term of years, being widely known as one of the able physicians and surgeons of the county, even as is he recognized as a worthy scion of one of the old and distinguished pioneer families of this favored section of the Buckeye State, where practically his entire life has been passed. Dr. Stubbs was born in Brady township, Williams county, O., on the 18th of May, 1838, and is a son of William M. Stubbs, who was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., June 22, 1810, the eldest of the seven children of John and Phoebe (Miller) Stubbs, both of whom were likewise natives of the old Empire State, where the respective families were early founded, both being of English extraction. William M. Stubbs was reared and educated in New York State and remained at the parental home until the time of his marriage. In 1836 he came to Williams county, O., and purchased two hundred and twenty acres of heavily timbered land in Brady township. No roads had been constructed, neighbors were few and widely separated and the county was but little more than an unbroken wilderness. He made a clearing on his land and there erected a log cabin of the type common to the pioneer days in this section, and there then devolved upon him the herculean task of reclaiming his land to cultivation. He effected the development of a fine farm, making the best of improvements on the same and becoming one of the most substantial agriculturists of the county. He continued to reside on his homestead until 1878, when he removed to Stryker and became a partner with his son, Dr. Nathaniel B., in the drug business, this association obtaining about two years, after which he lived retired until his death, which occurred November 21, 1900, and his cherished and devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal in 1893. Her maiden name was Margaret A. Collins, and she was born in the State of New York, being a daughter of David and Sabra (Blanchard) Collins. Six children were born of this union, and it is germane that a brief record concerning them be here incorporated: Martha, who became the wife of William Sheridan, died in 1875; Chauncey C., who married Miss Ella Grant, of West Unity, this county, is now an extensive stockgrower in Montana; Roxana L. is the wife of John G. Rumsey, of Stryker, mentioned individually in this work; Dr. Nathaniel B. was the next in order of birth; Phoebe A. became the wife of Samuel A. Smith and both now are deceased; and Sabra A. resides in Stryker, being the widow of Dr. Danforth P. Aldrich, who was one of the representative physicians of this county. William M. Stubbs was a man of strong intellectuality and forceful individuality, while his attributes of character were such that he ever commanded unqualified confidence and esteem in the county of which he was a sterling pioneer. He served as associate judge of the county and also as justice of the peace in Brady township, having been a stanch Democrat in his political adherency. Dr. Nathaniel

B. Stubbs passed his boyhood days on the old home farm and was accorded the advantages of the common schools of the locality. He initiated his independent career by becoming a salesman in a dry-goods establishment in Stryker, while later he was successfully engaged in teaching in the district schools of the county. In 1861 he engaged in the grocery business in Stryker, and in 1864 he was appointed clerk in the quartermaster's department of the Union army at Wheeling, West Va., serving until the close of the war. Upon his return to Williams county he became associated with his brother-in-law, Dr. Danforth P. Aldrich, in the drug business in Stryker, and here he has ever since been prominently identified with this line of enterprise. Dr. Aldrich withdrew from the firm in 1877 and thereafter the father of Dr. Stubbs was associated in the enterprise for two years, as has already been noted in this context. Then the Doctor individually continued the business until August 3, 1889, when he admitted his only son. W. S. Stubbs, to partnership, under the present firm name. In the meanwhile, aside from the valuable discipline gained through his active connection with the pharmaceutical business, Dr. Stubbs had taken up the technical study of medicine in a careful way, and in 1871 he was matriculated in the Cleveland Medical College, where he was graduated in February of the following year, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He forthwith began the practice of his profession, in connection with his drug business, and he continues his active and able labors as a physician and surgeon. Dr. Stubbs has ever taken a deep and helpful interest in local affairs of a public nature, and his attitude has been that of a generous and public-spirited citizen. He is a stalwart Democrat and has served as trustee, clerk and treasurer of Springfield township, as a member of the city council of Stryker, and as a valued member of the board of education, having been incumbent of the office of school director for the long period of thirty-six years. In a fraternal way he is identified with the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1862 was solemnized the marriage of Dr. Stubbs to Miss Eliza S. Stone, who was born in Essex county, N. Y., being a daughter of Granville and Maria (Butler) Stone, and two children represent the offspring of this union: Walter L., who was born in Stryker, October 17, 1867, is associated with his father in business, as has already been stated, and is one of the progressive business men and popular citizens of his native town. He is a Democrat in politics, served two years as a member of the city council and two years as a member of the board of education, and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. Cora L. is the wife of John H. Carpenter, of Laporte, Ind., and they have two children, Helen E. and Mildred.

PETER T. SUFFEL, a prominent and successful farmer of St. Joseph township, was born July 3, 1880. He is the son of Peter and Sarah (Goeltzenleuchter) Suffel, the former a native of Bavaria, Germany, and the latter of Stark county, O. His grandparents were Philip and Caroline (Radenbaugh) Suffel, who emigrated to America and came directly to Ohio, locating on a farm three miles southeast of Edgerton, where he died in 1857, and his widow in July, 1885. Peter Suffel was quite young when he came with his parents to the United States. Having been reared on a farm, he naturally chose farming as his avocation. In politics he was a Democrat, and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. He married Sarah Goeltzenleuchter February 18, 1855, and to this union eleven children were born, all but two still living. Those living are: Julia A., Solomon H., William, Sarah, Emanuel, Hannah, Harriet, Benjamin and Peter T. Those deceased are: Caroline, the eldest, and Irwin, the tenth child. Mr. Suffel died July 31, 1898, aged sixty-seven years, and his widow still survives, residing in St. Joseph township, aged sixty-seven years. The parents of Mrs. Suffel were Philip R. and Dorotha (Shaefer) Goeltzenleuchter, both born in Pirmasens, Bavaria, Germany, who came to the United States about 1837 and located near Waynesburg, Stark county, O., and in 1844 came to Williams county, where the father died December 3, 1872, aged sixty-two years. His widow survived him many years, dying December 6, 1899. The parents of Dorotha Shaefer were Henry and Catherine (Gilbert) Shaefer, both natives of Germany, who came to Stark county in 1837, where the father died in 1844, his wife surviving him twelve years, dying in DeKalb county, Ind. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Suffel were Christian and Catherine (Deihl) Goeltzenleuchter, who lived and died in their native land. Peter T. Suffel was born and reared on the old homestead and received a fair education in the public schools of his home county. For two years he was engaged in the saw-mill business, in which enterprise he succeeded quite well. Then for some time he worked in the basket factory at Edgerton, but for the past three years he has farmed on the old homestead. He is a man of push and enterprise and succeeds at anything he undertakes.

CLYDE E. THOMAS merits recognition as one of the able and progressive newspaper men and popular citizens of Williams county, being editor and publisher of the Montpelier Leader. He was born in Florence township, this county, on the 21st of March, 1865, and is a son of Albert P. and Nancy J. (Dole) Thomas, the former of whom was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1834, while the latter was born near Salem, Columbiana county, March 1, 1844. Our subject's father came to the county in 1840 when he was but a child, and the country was an unbroken forest. He attended such schools as the county afforded until about eighteen years of age when he attended a graded school at Orland, Ind., a few terms, which prepared him for teaching, and that worthy vocation he followed ten or twelve years. In 1864 he was married to Nancy J. Dole and settled on a farm in Florence township, where he remained until 1876, when he sold that farm and bought another and larger one, two and one-half miles northeast of Montpelier, residing there until 1893, when he retired and removed to Montpelier, where he now resides. The mother came to Williams county with her parents, who settled on the farm which is now the Thomas homestead in 1855, and remained here attending school until 1864, when she was married. Her mother, Mrs. Lenorah Dole, now more than ninety years old, is still living in Bryan. The Thomas family is an ancient and honorable one, and according to Welsh traditions the history of the family commences with Urian Rheged, a prince of Northern Britain in the sixth century, who was expelled from his principality by the Saxons and took refuge in Wales, from which have emanated the principal American branches of the family, twenty-eight representatives of which had come to the new world prior to 1699, and the name was prominent in the early wars as well as that of the Revolution. The ancestry of Clyde E. Thomas is traced in direct line to William Thomas, concerning whom the following interesting data have been secured for reproduction in this connection: "A cruel fate was that of William Thomas, who, in 1712, essayed to embark for America from the city of Bristol. He had large possessions which he converted into cash. This, together with the clothing for himself and family, he put on board the vessel. Before the day appointed for its sailing Thomas and his family found to their consternation that the vessel had set sail, but was not yet out of sight. Pursuit was made in a small craft and signals hoisted, but with no result. The vessel passed from sight and the family were left destitute. They, however, obtained credit and came to this country, landing in Philadelphia, where they had the mortification—as is set down in the records—of seeing some of their goods in possession and some of their wearing apparel on the backs of those who had purchased them from the dishonest master of the vessel. They were not able to recover anything. Fortune, however, favored William Thomas in the country of his adoption, and he became a leader among the people. He gave each of his five sons and two daughters a farm and stone house upon the occasion of their marriages. He also erected a stone meeting-house at his own expense. Although the congregation probably assisted him, Mr. Thomas himself worked in fiinishing the interior of the building. He made the pulpit out of a hollow gum tree, which was laid on a platform. At that time 'Elder Thomas,' as he was called, for he was often engaged in preaching, was nearly sixty years of age. He always carried his gun and sword to meeting, depositing them at the foot of the pulpit, this being the period of the French and Indian wars." From this stanch old Pennsylvania patriarch is descended Clyde E. Thomas, and he may well take pride in reverting to the genealogical records for the intervening decades. He was accorded the advantages of the district schools near the home farm, in Florence and Superior townships, and was a student about one year in the Montpelier high school, but his education has been largely through well-directed reading and self-discipline. He continued to be associated with agricultural pursuits until he was about twenty-seven years of age, when he located in Montpelier and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, to which he gave his attention until July 1st, 1899, when he purchased the Montpelier Leader, of which he has since been editor and publisher. The paper is an eight-column quarto, issued on Thursday of each week, and is not only a vehicle for bearing the local news in acceptable form, but for upholding the best interests of the community, and Mr. Thomas has made it a power in furthering the cause of the Republican party in its circulatory province. Mr. Thomas is at the present time incumbent of the office of mayor of Montpelier, and his administration has been marked by wise and progressive policies and due conservatism. He has also served as city clerk and as a member of the board of state deputy supervisors of elections, retaining the latter position two terms. March 28, 1905, Mr. Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Nettie M. Powers, daughter of Hiram and Flora (Coonly) Powers, originally of Orono, province of Ontario, Can., but later of Galesburg, Mich.

DAVID THOMAS, a successful farmer residing near Edgerton, was born in Holmes county, O., on December 14, 1830. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Domer) Thomas, both natives of Pennsylvania. Jacob Thomas was born in Bedford, Pa., in 1801. He first removed to Holmes county and in the fall of 1842 to Williams county and settled on a farm which he at once prepared to clear and which his son David now owns. In politics he was a Democrat until 1856, when he became an ardent Republican. In religious matters he was identified with the Dunkard church. He was twice married. By his first wife, Miss Barbara Harman, he had three children, all of whom are dead. His second wife was Miss Mary Domer, by whom he also had three children, of whom David, the subject of this sketch, is the only one living. Jacob Thomas died June 18, 1877, aged seventy-five years, and his wife February 6, 1873, aged seventy-six years. David Thomas grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a fair common school education. He owns a fine farm of one hundred acres, a part of the three hundred and twenty acres his father once owned, and follows general farming. In politics he is identified with the Republican party. On January 1, 1857, he was wedded to Miss Catherine Snyder, a native of Crawford county, O., and the daughter of John and Caroline (Sheller) Snyder, the former a native of Prussia and the latter of Saxony. William Snyder and wife, the parents of John Snyder, settled in Crawford county, where he died at the age of ninety-three and she at the age of eighty-seven years. John Snyder came to Williams county about the year 1850, was a Methodist minister for more than fifteen years and for a part of that time the presiding elder of the district. He is now a resident of New Albany, Ind., aged ninety years. To David Thomas and wife were born nine children. Their names follow: John S., born March 25, 1858, a carpenter and farmer by occupation, a Republican in politics and the husband of Miss Alice VanBuskirk, of Florence township, who died in June, 1901, by whom he had two children, Mary Agatha and Ralph Waldo; Mary, the wife of Rushton G. Lint of Bridgewater township, Williams county; William, a farmer of Center township; Rebecca, now Mrs. Connan of Bryan, O.; Caroline Matilda, who married Frank B. Laneus and died in 1886; Sarah Elizabeth, the wife of George P. Webber of Montpelier, O; David Albert and Jacob, farmers of Center township, and James, a Wabash railroad employee. His first wife having died on March 4, 1874, David Thomas married Mrs. Mary Delp, whose maiden name was Meyers, of Columbiana county, O., where she was born February 18, 1837. Of the seven children she had by Mr. Delp three are still living, viz.: Milton, Lillie and Alwilda.

ALPHEUS S. UMBENHAUR, a retired farmer and sterling citizen of Williams county, where he has passed his entire life, is a resident of the attractive little city of Montpelier. He was born in Superior township, this county, on the 25th of October, 1850, and is a representative of the third generation of the family in the county. The genealogical data accessable traces back only to his grandfather, Philip Umbenhaur, who was born in Berks county, Pa., and of German ancestry. When a young man he removed from the old Keystone State to Frederick county, Va., locating in the vicinity of Winchester, where he was engaged for a number of years as a successful planter. In 1837 he came to Williams county, O., and secured a tract of land in Superior township, which had been previously pre-empted by Jacob Pultz. Here he developed a good farm, to whose cultivation he gave his attention until his death, which occurred shortly before the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, and during the progress of that great conflict his wife died. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Pultz, and she likewise was born in Berks county, Pa. The remains of both rest in the old cemetery south of Montpelier. George Umbenhaur, father of Alpheus S., was born near Wnichester, Va., April 12, 1810, and was there reared and educated. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio and he passed the residue of his life in Williams county, having been one of the representative farmers of Bridgewater township at the time of his demise, which occurred November 4, 1871, interment being made in the Cogswell cemetery in Bridgewater township. He was twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Laura Lloyd, was born in the State of New York, and she died in 1851, having been the mother of five children, namely: Harriet, the widow of Benjamin F. Morris, and a resident of Montpelier, O.; Benjamin F., a resident of Montpelier; Virgil A., of Beagle, Kan.; Francis Marion, deceased in infancy; and Alpheus Shannon, subject of this review, who was aged about one year at the time of his mother's death. Laura Lloyd's grandfather Lloyd was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. George Umbenhaur consummated a second marriage, wedding Mrs. Elizabeth (Dean) Young, who was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., and they became the parents of two children—George W., who died in infancy, and Bryce H., who is a resident of Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Elizabeth Umbenhaur died in September, 1900, in Kansas, where her remains were laid to rest. Alpheus S. Umbenhaur received his early educational discipline in the common schools of Bridgewater township, which he continued to attend a portion of each year until he was twenty years of age. He was reared on a farm, and after leaving school he continued to be actively concerned in agricultural pursuits in Bridgewater township until 1884, when he removed to Montpelier, where he followed the carpenter trade for the ensuing nine years. About two years later he purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty acres in Superior township, and he gave his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing until 1904, when he again took up his residence in the town of Montpelier, where he has since resided. He still owns a fine farm of seventy-one acres, adjoining the town on the northwest, and a farm of about seventy-five acres on the south side of the road, one-half mile west of town, the two farms being practically together, and he finds a profitable source of income from the operation of several gravel banks. He is a loyal and well-liked citizen, is a stalwart Republican, having held the offices of road supervisor and school director, and is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and its adjunct organization the Daughters of Rebekah. Mrs. Umbenhaur is also an active member of the Daughters of Rebekah and has held an office in the order almost continuously since she became a member. August 13, 1876, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Umbenhaur to Miss Florence A. Stocking, daughter of Timothy W. and Sarah J. (Adams) Stocking, of Bridgewater township. Timothy W. Stocking was the fourth in a family of eight children born to John and Polly (Train) Stocking, the former a native of New York and the latter of Massachusetts. The father of Polly Train was John Train, who enlisted at Tinmouth, Vt., as a private in a company of Vermont troops which was under the command of Captain Grant and Col. Warner during the Revolutionary war. Timothy W. Stocking was born in Madison county, N. Y., on January 1, 1817. He was reared in York State and learned the carpenter trade. On November 24, 1838, he married Sarah J. Adams, a native of Wayne county, N. Y., where she was born on July 24, 1816. They removed to Williams county in 1854 and settled on a farm which he purchased. In 1866 they removed to Bryan, where Mr. Stocking was connected with the United States internal revenue service, and after five years' residence there they returned to the farm, and in 1884 removed to Montpelier, where Mr. Stocking died on February 8,

1889. He had served three terms as commissioner of Williams county, and also as clerk and trustee of Bridgewater township. During the Civil war he filled the office of deputy provost marshal. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also of the National Grange. He was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Williams county. In all the various duties of life that he was called upon to perform he acquitted himself with credit and was a man highly respected by all who knew him. His wife survived him until November 1st, 1902, when she died in her eighty-seventh year. She was the daughter of Joseph and Fanny (Langdon) Adams, both natives of New York, where they resided in Wayne county until their deaths. The former was born August 25, 1786, and died April 17, 1861. The latter was born March 2, 1792, and died November 29, 1827. Timothy W. and Sarah J. Stocking were the parents of the following children: Joseph E. born December 25, 1840, and resides at Anita, Cass county, Ia.; Frances L., born November 11, 1843, died October 2, 1873; Annettie J., born June 19, 1846, and died November 4, 1874; and Florence A., born February 6, 1857, is the wife of the subject of this sketch. Joseph and Fanny (Langdon) Adams were married on October 1, 1801. Mr. and Mrs. Umbenhaur have no children. They are enjoying a pleasant home in Montpelier, surrounded by all the comforts incident to a well-regulated household. Mrs. Umbenhaur is one of the charter members of the "Women's Relief Corps" of Montpelier, and she is also a member of the Women's Historical Society, a local organization.

WALTER S. UNGER, B.C.S., M.D., a prominent and highly successful physician of Melbern, was born in Stark county, O., August 11, 1874. He is the son of Jacob W. and Charity E. (Miller) Unger, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. His grandfather, George Unger, was the son of George Unger, a native of Kentucky, who removed to Pennsylvania, where he married a Miss Haines, the daughter of an English nobleman, and came to Canton, O., in 1826, where both died. One of their sons, Jacob Unger, was a hotel-keeper at Minerva, O., for more than sixty years and frequently entertained William McKinley. George Unger, the grandfather of Walter S. Unger, spent his life in Canton, where he followed the trade of a shoemaker and farming, being the owner of a farm just south of the county farm of Stark county, and now is in part laid off into town lots. He married Elizabeth Smith and died at Canton in 1873, aged sixty-two years. His widow survived him twenty-six years, dying at the age of eighty-three years. Jacob W. Unger, the father of Walter S. Unger, grew to manhood at Canton, receiving a liberal education in the public schools. When a young man he taught school in Stark county for five years, meeting with marked success. He enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Sixty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, on May 2, 1864, and served until the close of the war. In 1874 he removed to Williams county and located at Edgerton. Here he owned the first hay-press and shipped the first car load of baled hay out of Williams county. He took a deep interest in the public schools of Edgerton and served for seven years on the school board. He and wife had one child, the subject of this sketch. Walter S. Unger attended the Edgerton high school and on February 10, 1894, he completed the commercial course in the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., receiving the degree of B.C.S. Then he attended the Toledo Medical College one year, after which he entered the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery at Detroit, Mich., where, after two years' arduous work, he graduated with the degree of M. D. on March 23, 1897. He at once began the practice of medicine at Melbern, and now ranks as one of the most successful physicians of the county. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the school board of Center township. He is a member of Edgerton Lodge, No. 357, Free and Accepted Masons. In 1898 he married Miss Isola F. Burger of Hicksville, O., born in Noble county, Ind., June 15, 1873, and educated at Hicksville O., where she removed with her parents, Joseph and Mary Burger, about 1879. Joseph Burger served three years in the Union army and still resides at Hicksville, O., having lost his wife in 1885. To Doctor Unger and wife two children have been born, Paul W. and Dorris B.

GEORGE WALKER is the owner of one of the finely improved farm properties of Northwest township, where he has maintained his home for more than forty years, and where he has achieved a position of independence through well directed effort, being now practically retired, though giving a general supervision to his farming interests. Mr. Walker was born in the kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, on the 7th of October, 1840, and his early educational training was secured in the excellent schools of his fatherland, being later supplemented by a period of study in the common schools of Medina county, O. His honored parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Crouver) Walker, passed their entire lives in Germany, the father having been a wagonmaker and farmer. In 1857 George Walker severed the ties which bound him to home and native land and set forth to seek his fortunes in America, being dependent upon his own resources and being strong in his determination and his willingness to do whatever honorable work that would enable him to forge to the front in the New World. He landed in New York city and thence made his way to Medina county, O., locating in Guilford township, where he was employed in farm work by the month, in the meanwhile attending the district schools a portion of the winters. In 1861 he came to Williams county and purchased fifty acres of wild land in Northwest township, and took up his residence on the place in 1863, clearing the land of its heavy timber and eventually purchasing an adjoining fifty acres, which two tracts combined makes his present finely improved landed estate, which is under a high state of cultivation and gives evidence of the well directed energy which has been brought to bear in transforming it from a wild condition to a productive and attractive farmstead. He has labored earnestly during many years, has been a loyal citizen and has never lacked the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. He is a Democrat in his political proclivities and formerly served as trustee of his township. His wife is a member of the Christian Union church. In 1861 Mr. Walker was married to Miss Lydia Shook, who was born in Wayne county, O., on July 27, 1838, being a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Kindig) Shook, who were pioneers of Wayne county, where the father died in 1879 and the mother in 1889, both having been members of the Lutheran church, the father being a Democrat in politics and a farmer by vocation. Following is a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Walker: Albert R., who married Mary E. Hamilton, is a successful farmer of Northwest township; Emma became the wife of Edward Norris and her death occurred in February, 1903, one child, Charles Thurman, surviving her; Charles William, a farmer of this township, married Neocia Humphrey, and they have two children, Velma Viola and Estella May; Elizabeth Ellen is the wife of Elmer Humphrey, a farmer of Northwest township, and they have one child, Mabel Grace.

JAMES F. WALLACE, a prominent and highly successful farmer, near Melbern, was born in Columbiana county, O., August 18, 1835. He is the son of William and Martha (Laughlin) Wallace, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of the State of Pennsylvania. William Wallace came with his parents to Ohio, locating in Columbiana county, where William Wallace is buried, and Mrs. Wallace is buried near Bryan. He was a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics, serving as township assessor, and was regarded as an upright and exemplary citizen by all who knew him and who had dealings with him. His wife removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, settling on a farm in Columbiana county, where her parents died. William and Martha Wallace were the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, all living except two daughters. James F. Wallace was reared on a farm and received a fair common school education in Columbiana and William counties, having come to the latter county with his mother and family about the year 1855. While a farmer by occupation he learned the carpenter trade, at which he proved quite successful, as is shown by the substantial buildings he erected, not only for himself on his farm, but also for other parties. On September 20, 1864, he was drafted into the United States army and served as a private in Company K, Forty-seventh Ohio infantry regiment. His command captured Fort McAllister and continued with Sherman's army until the surrender of Lee, when it went to Richmond and thence to Washington, and was mustered out of service on

May 31, 1865, Mr. Wallace being honorably discharged at Columbus, O. In 1877 he located on the present homestead, a farm of eighty acres of well improved land which is equipped with all the necessary buildings. In politics he is a Republican, serving as such in the capacity of township supervisor for four years. On February 18, 1862, he was wedded to Miss Lydia Nihart, born in Williams county, January 20, 1844, the daughter of Jacob and Anna Mary (Frock) Nihart, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Four children have blessed the marriage of James F. Wallace and wife. Leroy G., the eldest, was born March 6, 1863, and was educated in the public schools of his home county. He is a farmer by occupation, a Republican in politics and an active member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. William J., the second son, was born July 6, 1865, and received a fair public school education. By occupation he is a railway clerk, operating on the line from Cleveland to Chicago. He married Miss Rose Parcher, of Williams county, and by her has had four children. They are: Selma Irene, Blanche Esther, Wilma and Carlton, the latter being deceased. Lawrence N., born July 17, 1869, and educated in the public schools of Bryan, is employed in Edgerton and is a Republican in politics, having served for some years as deputy probate judge at Bryan. He married Miss Letitia Potts and has a family of two children, named Cleo and Carmen. Harry F., the youngest, was born February 25, 1871, and was educated at Bryan and the State Business College of Toledo. He has served as stenographer in the Ordinance department of the United States governmnet at Akron, O., as manager of the Wallace Collecting Agency, and as a typewriter salesman. He is wedded to Miss Nellie Bucklew and has two children, Marion and Mildred.

JOSEPH WARNER, a retired farmer and highly respected citizen of Bridgewater township, is a native of Wooster, Wayne county, O., having been born there on November 12, 1831. He is the son of David and Leah (Dierdorf) Warner, the former born in 1803 and the latter, a native of Pennsylvania, in 1805. His paternal grandfather, a soldier in the war of 1812, died in Stark county, O., at the age of ninety-eight years. A sister of this venerabel man lived to the ripe old age of one hundred and three years. David Warner first came to the neighborhood of Camden, Stark county, O., where he cleared a farm, and his next move was to Wayne county and later to Crawford county. In 1864 he removed to Bridgewater township, Williams county, where he died June 16, 1878, his wife having died July 11, 1876. Joseph Warner grew to manhood on his father's farm and received such an education as the common schools of his day afforded. For twenty years he followed the occupation of threshing. He came to Williams county in 1864 and now owns a valuable and highly productive farm of one hundred and seven acres. As a Democrat he has served the people in the capacity of trustee and school director. In religious matters he and wife are devout members of the Church of God. On September 1, 1852, he was wedded to Miss Elizabeth Fry, a daughter of Henry and Amy Fry, both natives of Pennsylvania. His wife died June 22, 1873. To the marriage of Joseph Warner and wife there were born nine children, all of whom are living. They are: Sarah Ann, David, Amy, Samantha Ellen, Joseph, Mary, Matilda, Daniel and Jane.

WENDEL E. WASNICH has the distinction of being one of the representative farmers of the township and county in which he was born and reared and in which he is held in high regard by all who know him. He was born on the old homestead farm, in Jefferson township, Williams county, O., on the 12th of January, 1865, and is a son of John and Margaret (Rempp) Wasnich, the former of whom was born in Richland county and the latter in Wayne county, O., and both came to Williams county when young, having been married here. John Wasnich was the son of Wendel Wasnich, who was born in Germany, from whence he came to America when a young man, settling in Richland county, O., where he remained until 1850, and then came to Williams county and settled in Jefferson township, where he secured eighty acres of land, which he reclaimed from the virgin forest, eventually selling the property and purchasing another farm in the same township. He passed the closing years of his life in the homes of his children, and his death occurred in August, 1891, while his wife died in 1879. John Wasnich learned the trade of a carpenter, to which he devoted more or less attention for many years, and he lived on the homestead now owned by his son, Wendel E., up to the time of his death, which occurred in August, 1891, while his cherished and devoted wife was summoned into eternal rest in March, 1879. Both were members of the German Reformed church, and in politics he was a stalwart Democrat, having held various public offices of a local nature. This worthy couple became the parents of three children: Wendel E., whose name introduces this paragraph; Minnie, the wife of William Bly, of Jefferson township; and Claudia, the wife of Ellsworth Connley, of Jefferson township. Wendel E. Wasnich has lived on the old homestead farm from the time of his birth to the present, and he has found the agricultural industry well worthy of his continuous allegiance, having attained success through his interposition therewith, and he has held the same unqualified confidence and esteem as were enjoyed by his honored father. On the 15th of January, 1888, he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie M. Barr, who was born in Richland county, O., being a daughter of John and Lydia (Bly) Barr, the former of whom was born in Wayne county, O., and the latter in Virginia. Mr. Barr came to Williams county in 1885, and the family settled in Jefferson township, where he became a prosperous and influential farmer. He died in April, 1904, and his wife still lives on the homestead farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wasnich have two children—William W. and Alma M.. Mr. Wasnich was educated in the public schools of his home county and is a man of intelligence and forceful individuality, taking a loyal interest in local affairs and being a stanch adherent of the Democratic party. In the spring of 1901 he was elected trustee of Jefferson township, for a term of three years, and he has served three years as a member of the school board of his district and also as a road officer. Both he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church.

THE WATERSTON FAMILY.—For nearly three-fourths of a century the Waterston family has resided in the State of Ohio, and for more than fifty years it has been actively identified with the growth and development of Williams county, its members being recognized as belonging to the class of the leading and substantial citizens. Very generally they have followed agricultural pursuits and, true to their sturdy Scotch ancestry, they have been industrious and conservative. In every instance they have discharged faithfully the duties incumbent upon good citizens, two of them having served their country as soldiers during the dark days of the Civil war, and one the county in the capacity of a public official. The Waterston family is of Scotch stock and was founded in the United States and Ohio in 1831, by Alexander Waterston. This worthy ancestor was born at Dalkeith, Scotland, March 6, 1805, the elder son of Simon and Janet (Thorburn) Waterston, both natives of Scotland. His early education was obtained in night-schools and he learned the tanner's trade with his grandfather, Alexander Thorburn, and followed that occupation until twenty-one years of age, when he went to the city of Edinburg and there learned the baker's trade which he followed until he sailed for America. On September 15, 1829, he was wedded to Miss Janet Forrest, a native of Penicuik, Scotland, where she was born on August 18, 1806. In 1831 he emigrated to the United States, landing on the Fourth of July at New York City. From there he at once removed to what is now the State of West Virginia. A year later he removed to Belmont county, O., where he spent ten years on a farm. Then he removed to Richland county, O., where he purchased a farm and resided there until 1853, when he came to Williams county and established his permanent residence there. Although the county at that time was a veritable wilderness, he soon had a log cabin erected for his family, and then he began the work of "blazing the way for future generations." The hardships and trials through which he passed were met with the true pioneer spirit, and he was permitted before his decease to enjoy the fruits of his endeavors. Possessed of the sterling traits of character of his Scotch ancestors, he lived a long and useful life, winning not only a competency but also the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. He was a Republican in politics and in religious matters a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Full of years and honors he died at his homestead on March 12, 1875, and was survived by his widow until September, 1895. The children of this worthy family who grew to manhood and womanhood were as follows: Simon; Thomas, deceased; James, deceased; William; Mary, the widow of the late Jonathan M. Haynes of Bridgewater township, and Elizabeth, the wife of Wallace Culbertson of Paola, Kan. Simon Waterston, eldest of the children of Alexander Waterston, was born on May 20, 1830. When two years old his mother brought him to the United States to join his father, who had gone the previous year. His boyhood and youth were spent in Belmont and Richland counties, both in Ohio. His father having given him his time when twenty years old, he went to Huron county, O., and worked in the first dairy establishment there. That fall he started for the Michigan pineries, but stopped at Detroit and worked in a saw-mill until the close of navigation. Then he took up firing on the Michigan Central railway, and fired the first engine that went into Chicago on wheels from the east of that city. In 1852 he returned to the farm in Richland county and, in the fall of the year, came to Williams county. On October 27, 1852, he and his father purchased two hundred and forty acres of wild land in section 28, Bridgewater township. About the first of December his father purchased the northeast quarter of section 28, and later his brother Thomas bought the northwest quarter of the same section. On September 1, 1861, he enlisted in Company H of the Thirty-eighth Ohio volunteer infantry, serving under General Thomas in Kentucky, under General Buell in his famous march to Shiloh and his retreat north, and then under Generals Rosecrans and Thomas until the fall of Atlanta, when, as lieutenant, he was ordered to take the surplus baggage of the Third division of the Fourteenth Army Corps back to Bridgeport, Ala. Here he remained until General Sherman's army reached Washington, where he joined his regiment and took command of Company H, and he was mustered out as first lieutenant at Louisville, Ky., on July 12, 1865. Returning home, he resumed farming and followed that occupation until 1888, when he removed to Montpelier on account of poor health from exposure in the army, and has since resided there. Mr. Waterston was one of the twenty-eight citizens who organized the Republican party in Williams county, only two of whom are now living, the other being James Cummins, of Madison township. Of the principles of that organization he has ever since been a strong advocate. His party has frequently honored him with election to public office in his township, such as trustee and treasurer and notary public. He became a Mason in 1861, an Odd Fellow in 1879, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1888. On April 13, 1854, he was united in marriage to Miss Cyrena Lindsay, a native of Essex county, New York, and the daughter of Francis W. and Polly (Adams) Lindsay. The Lindsays removed from New York State to Michigan in 1837, and three years later came to Bridgewater township, Williams county. To Mr. Waterston and wife the following children were born: George T., born February 17, 1855, who lives on one-half of the old homestead; an infant, deceased; Anna C., the wife of Samuel S. Hayes, of Bridgewater township; Frank L., a member of the board of county commissioners, and Jennie A., now Mrs. Fred A. Bowers, of Northwest township. On June 15, 1905, the beloved wife of Simon Waterston was called to her eternal rest. She was a noble wife and mother and a devout member of the Presbyterian church. She died at their home in Montpelier and is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

WILLIAM T. WATERSTON, a well-to-do farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Bridgewater township, was born in Belmont county, O., on May 25, 1841. He is the son of Alexander Waterston, mention of whom is made in the preceding memoir, and Janet (Forrest) Waterston. William T. Waterston grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools of his home county. On March 3, 1865, in answer to his country's call for defenders, he enlisted as a private in Company C of the One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served until December 17, 1865, when he was honorably discharged from service because of the close of the war. He now owns the farm of one hundred and eighty acres, which his father cleared and on which he settled on September 3, 1853. He is an ardent Republican and has served as township treasurer for ten years. In religious matters he and his wife are actively identified with the United Brethren church. In 1876 he was wedded to Miss Lucretia Haines, the daughter of Michael and Rebecca (Lowe) Haines, who came to Bridgewater township in 1854 and there spent the rest of their days, both being natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Waterston was born in Stark county, O., January 5, 1851. To William T. Waterston and wife there have been born the following children: Ursula, the wife of Frederick Lantz and resides on a farm at Bridgewater Center; Augusta, the wife of Elsworth Brandon, M. D., of Edon, O.; an infant, deceased; Belva, the wife of Noah Spieth, residing on an adjoining farm to the homestead; and Scott, who resides with his parents at home. Mr. and Mrs. Waterston have justly earned the competence which they now possess and to-day are enjoying all the comforts of a rural home. They stand high in the community in which they have spent the greater portion of their lives, an inheritance more to be valued than worldly goods.

JACOB F. WEAVER, of Montpelier, is one of the most public-spirited citizens of Williams county, and his efforts have been specially potent in connection with the development and upbuilding of his home town, where he was formerly engaged in the real-estate business in a most active way, having platted and improved additions to the town and otherwise promoted the material and civic advancement of this section. Mr. Weaver comes of stanch German ancestry and was born in Center township, this county, July 22, 1857, being a son of William and Lovina (Steele) Weaver. The paternal grandparents, Samuel and Mary (Stauffer) Weaver, were natives of Lancaster county, Pa., whence they came to Ohio in an early day, becoming pioneers of Wayne county, where Samuel Weaver was engaged in farming until 1855, when he came with his wife to Williams county and located in Center township, where he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits until his death, and his wife also died in that township, both having been consistent members of the English Lutheran church, while he was a stanch Republican from the organization of the party until his death. They became the parents of six children: William, father of the subject of this sketch; Samuel, a successful farmer of Center township; and Anthony, Ephraim, Susan and Harriet, all of whom are deceased, except William and Samuel. William Weaver was born in Lancaster county, Pa., June 22, 1822, and he was a child at the time of his parents' removal to Wayne county, O., where he was reared and educated amid the environments of the pioneer era. In 1853 he came to Williams county and purchased eighty acres of wild land in Center township and instituted the reclamation of the same. In 1868 he sold this property and purchased a farm one mile southeast of Montpelier, where he continued to be actively identified with agricultural enterprise until 1900, when he sold the farm to his son, Jacob F. Weaver, and has since lived retired. He is a radical Republican in politics and is a valued member of the Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder. His wife, who died in 1891, was likewise a devoted member of this church. She was a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Long) Steele, of Wayne county, where her marriage to Mr. Weaver was solemnized in the year 1844. Concerning the ten children of this union the following brief data are given: Caroline is the wife of George Varns, of Missouri Valley, Ia.; Sarah is the wife of Nathan Zeigler, of Center township; Mary, who became the wife of James Nichols, of Alton, Kan., is deceased; Irenus is a resident of Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Samuel L. is a merchant of Lake Park, Ia.; William O. is engaged in the granite business in Lafayette, Ind.; Jacob F. is the immediate subject of this review; Libbie H. is the wife of Lemanuel McIntosh, of Missouri Valley, Ia.; Addie C. is the wife of George W. Gilcher, of Jefferson township; and Sherman E. is a representative farmer of Superior township. Jacob F. Weaver duly profited by the advantages afforded in the public schools of his native county, continuing to attend the same until he had reached the age of twenty years, also taking a course in the high school in Montpelier. After leaving school he learned the art of photography, and in 1878-9 he operated a studio in Montpelier, after which he was employed one year as a traveling salesman for the American View Company, an establishment of W. R. Babcock, of Toledo. In 1882 he went to Clay county, Ia., where he remained a few months, engaged in farming, and he then returned to Montpelier, where he engaged in the painting of portraits, to which line of enterprise he gave his attention until 1891, when he purchased the real-estate business of Pratt & Joy, of Montpelier, and carried on active operations in the handling of local realty until 1904, since which time he has been less active, though he gives his attention largely to the mangement of his farm, also manages the farms of Mrs. J. K. Young and other real-estate holdings in the county. He laid out four additions to the city of Montpelier, placing one hundred and six lots on the market and showing much discrimination in exploiting the attractions of his additions and in securing their development in a proper way, and he was able to offer exceptional inducements to homeseekers. For two years he was in partnership with Isaiah W. Pressler in the real-estate business. He was one of the organizers of the Fidelity Building and Loan Association, of which he was one of the first directors, and he was its vice-president for many years and its appraiser for a decade. In politics Mr. Weaver is a stalwart Republican, but he has never sought or desired office, and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, as was also his first wife. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity and was one of those prominently identified with the organization of the Montpelier lodge of Knights of Pythias, in which he served as chancellor commander and held the various other official chairs, and he assisted in organizing a number of lodges elsewhere in the county. He is not an active member of the lodge at the present time. February 7, 1884, Mr. Weaver was united in marriage to Miss Hattie L. Arter, daughter of Christian M. Arter, of Superior township. She died April 26, 1885, leaving one child, Arter J., who was graduated in the Montpelier high school as a member of the class of 1905, and at present is taking a course in law at the Ada Law School. March 8, 1893, Mr. Weaver was married to Miss Martha E. McCrea, daughter of Samuel and Susanna (Lindersmith) McCrea, of Columbiana county, O. Her parents died while she was quite young and James K. and Jane (McCrea) Young, an uncle and aunt, provided her and her brother, William McCrea, with a home. She continued to reside with them until her marriage to Mr. Weaver. She received a good common school education and completed her studies in the Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Mich., from which institution she graduated in music with the class of 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver have one child, Lisle McCrea, who is now attending the Montpelier schools. It might be well to say to the credit of Jane (McCrea) Young, who so nobly filled the place of mother to Mrs. Weaver, that no mother ever manifested a greater interest in her own child than Mrs. Young did in behalf of her niece, and that Mrs. Weaver lovingly appreciates all the kindness bestowed on her; and to-day Mrs. Young is an honored member of the family and all expect to live together until called to the great beyond.

GEORGE WEBBER, a retired farmer and a well-known citizen of Bryan, was born near Tuebingen, Kingdom of Wertemburg, Germany, on July 2, 1832. He is the son of Jacob and Dora (Baumiller) Webber, both natives of Germany. The family was one of the old and respected ones in the Fatherland and followed farming for a living. Jacob Webber died in his native country about the year 1848. His widow emigrated to America in 1855 and died in Richland county, O., soon after her arrival there. Four children were born to them, as follows: Jacob, who came to America with his brother, William, in 1854; Dora, who married and died in her native country; and George, who came over in 1852 and settled in Richland county, O. George Webber received his education in the public schools of his native country and there began to learn the cabinet maker's trade. When his father died he returned to the home farm. In 1852, in company with five other young men of the same place, he emigrated to the United States, coming directly to Richland county, O., separating from his companions at New York city. In Richland county he found a relative of his mother and here he began work at the carpenter trade. In 1856 he married and the year following removed to Williams county, locating in Madison township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres and followed farming and carpentering. Having sold his farm in Madison township he removed to Jefferson township, in 1863, where he also purchased eighty acres of land and continued farming and carpentering, the latter occupation, however, only a year or two. He remained there until 1872, when he sold his farm and removed to Millcreek township, a mile and a half south of Alvordton, where he had purchased a fine farm of two hundred acres, and there followed farming for eight or nine years. During that time he was also engaged in the agricultural implement business at West Unity. In 1880 he removed to Alvordton and there engaged in buying and selling hay and in dealing in agricultural implements, and he remained there until about 1892, when he removed to Bryan. Here for five years he engaged in buying and shipping hay, and then retired from active business. He always took a deep interest in public affairs, and held the office of trustee in Jefferson and Millcreek townships, serving two years in each instance. Next he was elected a justice of the peace of Millcreek township, which office he held for nineteen years. He was elected for twenty-one years, but resigned two years before the expiration of his last term. While a resident of Millcreek township, in 1878, he was elected county commissioner and served one term of three years. During his incumbency a wing was added to the county infirmary and other improvements were made. At one time he owned six hundred acres of farm land, of which he gave three hundred and twenty to his three oldest children. He now owns one hundred and forty-two acres in Center township, two miles west of Bryan, and other valuable improved real estate in Bryan. In politics he is a Democrat. For thirty-four years he was identified with the Lutheran church, then for five years he affiliated with the United Brethren church, but finally returned to the Lutherans. In 1856 he was wedded to Miss Christine Wilour, a native of Baden, Germany, who came to this country when an infant. She died on July 12, 1878, aged fifty years, three months and twenty-three days, leaving three children, as follows: George, who resides at Alvordton and is wedded to Florence Tressler; William, a resident of Alvordton and the husband of Ella Poulson; and Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Schrider of Alvordton, by whom she has had two children, George and Helen. George Webber was married the second time on October 26, 1879, Miss Sarah Bevire being his choice. She was born in Richland county on June 20, 1841, and is the daughter of Simon and Cathrine (Bevire) Bevire, natives of the State of New York and of Highland French stock on both sides of the family. One child has been born to this union, Earl by name, who is single and resides at home.

FREDERICK WEBER, a successful farmer near Bryan, is a native of that county, having been born there on April 2, 1843. He is of German stock, both of his parents, Frederick and Elizabeth (Nihart) Weber, being natives of Germany. His maternal grandfather, Valentine Nihart, a native of Germany, died in Williams county. When Frederick Weber and wife were still quite young they emigrated to the United States with their parents, landing at Baltimore, Md., whence his people removed to Monroe county and hers to Tuscarawas county, both in Ohio. After their marriage they settled, in 1840, in Williams county on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he at once proceeded to clear, improve and cultivate. He was a stanch Democrat in politics, a farmer by occupation, and with his wife a member of the German Reformed church. Their marriage was blessed with seven children, only two of that number now living. Frederick Weber grew to manhood on his father's farm and received an elementary education in the schools of Center township. Having chosen farming as his life's work, he has been continuously engaged in that, to him agreeable and profitable occupation. He is the owner of ninety acres of some of the best and most productive land in the county, all of which is the result of his careful and skillful management. Naturally a farmer, he has made it his daily study, and as a natural consequence he has a well equipped and a highly productive farm. He finds that general farming is more remunerative than any other kind of farm work, and for that reason gives it his undivided time and attention. In politics he is affiliated with the Democratic party, though in no sense an office-seeker, and with his wife he is a member of the German Reformed church. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Muhl of Jefferson township, Williams county, the daughter of Peter and Rebecca Muhl. Peter Muhl was born in Dudenhofen, Germany, September 3, 1803, and settled in Williams county in April, 1854, when the daughter, Mrs. Weber, was eleven years oid, and there both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Frederick Weber and wife are the parents of ten children, whose names follow: John F., Hiram, Lena, Dora, Jay, Martin, Annie, Lovina, George and an infant who died unnamed.

RUFUS H. WEAVER, a successful educator of Montpelier and county auditor of Williams county, was born on a farm six miles north of Tiffin, Seneca county, O., on April 16, 1873. He is the son of John M. and Minnie (Barkman) Weaver, both natives of Seneca county. His paternal grandfather, David M. Weaver, was a pioneer settler of that county. Frederick Barkman, his maternal grandfather, was a native of Stuttgartt, Germany, who emigrated to America about fourteen months before the mother of the subject of this sketch was born. John M. Weaver came to Williams county in 1883 and resided in Montpelier until about 1889, when he removed to Allegan county, Mich., where he now resides, engaged in fruit farming. His wife died in Seneca county, O., in 1881 Four children were born to these parents. They are: Rufus H.; Frederick S., a resident of Detroit, where he is employed in railroad work; Eva T., the wife of Amandus Shuman of Seneca county; and William E., also a resident of Seneca county. Rufus H. Weaver grew to manhood on a farm. He first attended the district schools of Seneca county and then the graded school of Fort Seneca, of the same county, a special district school, whose teacher was George M. Hoke, afterward prosecuting attorney of the county and later city attorney of Tiffin. After his mother's death Rufus H. Weaver made his home for about four years with Henry Stoner, a farmer, and in 1886 came to Montpelier, to which place his father had moved. After attending the Montpelier schools for two years he again went on a farm, making his home with Henry C. Brish, of Superior township, whose wife is an aunt of John M. Weaver. From 1890 to 1893 he worked on the farm by the month, attending school during the winter months. In the winter of 1893 he began teaching in District No. 9, Superior township, and taught there for sixteen consecutive terms. In the spring of 1899, after having successfully passed the civil service examination, he served as mail clerk on the Wabash railway between Montpelier and Detroit. He next engaged for three years in the agricultural implement business in Montpelier with J. D. Wertz. In 1904 he was elected one of the teachers of the Montpelier schools and completed the year's work. In politics he is actively identified with the Democratic party, having held the offices of assessor and clerk of Superior township prior to his election to the office of auditor of Williams county in the fall of 1904. His election to this office by a majority of one hundred and eighty-six votes is all the more remarkable, because he was the only successful candidate on his party's ticket, his associates having been defeated by over twelve hundred votes. He took possession of the auditor's office in October, 1905. Mr. Weaver has been identified for some time with the Masonic and Knights of Pythias fraternities. On June 7, 1899, he was wedded to Miss Savillah D. Shaull, born in Superior township on January 12, 1880, the daughter of Samuel and Fannie (Houseman) Shaull, one of the oldest and most highly respected families in the township. To their marriage one daughter, Blanche, has been born.

PHILIP WEIDNER, head of the well-known firm of P. Weidner & Co., engaged in the general merchandise business in Kunkle, is a citizen who has turned the tide of success by his own vigorous efforts and who has gained high standing in the community both as a citizen and as a business man, and his marked prosperity has a substantial basis in honorable and legitimate effort. He was born in Richland county, O., on the 23d of August, 1840, and is a son of Wendal and Catherine (Weidner) Weidner, both of whom were born in the Rhine district of Baden, Germany, where they were reared and educated, and while both bore the same name they were not consanguineous. They were married in the Fatherland and in 1831 severed the home ties and came to America, making Richland county, O., their destination and there passed the remainder of their lives, being persons of inflexible integrity and of industrious habits. Mr. Weidner purchased eighty acres of timber land, which he reclaimed and improved, and on this homestead he continued to reside until his death, in 1873, at the age of seventy-three years, his devoted wife having passed away in 1855, at the age of fifty-six years. Of their eight children three sons and three daughters are still living. Both were zealous members of the German Reformed church, and in politics the father was a stanch Democrat. In his native country Philip Weidner was reared to the invigorating discipline of the pioneer farm, and his educational advantages were those afforded in the common schools. In 1860 he came to Williams county, where he found employment during the first year in chopping timber and clearing land, receiving twelve dollars a month as compensation. Thereafter he devoted his attention principally to work at the carpenter trade until the spring of 1865, when he enlisted as a private in Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, which was a part of General Hancock's corps in the Army of the Potomac. He served until the close of the war, engaged principally in guard duty, and was mustered out in Baltimore, Md., receiving his honorable discharge at Columbus, O. After the close of his military career Mr. Weidner returned to Williams county, and in the autumn of 1865 he purchased eighty acres of timber land in Madison township, initiating the work of clearing the place and erecting a small frame house on the embryonic farm. In 1867 he was married and he and his bride took up their abode in the little home which he had provided, and both bent their energies to the winning of a position of independence. Their co-operation was fruitful in good results, and the homestead farm in 1875 was one of the best in that section of the county, having a two-story frame residence and other substantial buildings, while thrift was evident on every side. In 1875 Mr. Weidner left the farm and removed to the village of Kunkle, where he invested one thousand dollars in a stock of merchandise, acquiring a third interest in a general store. Three years later he retired from the firm and for the ensuing year gave his attention to contracting and building. He then purchased the store with which he had previously been connected, and he has built up a very extensive business, the same being quartered in a commodious double store-room, in which the various departments are stocked with the best lines of merchandise germane thereto, and the trade is of a representative order and drawn from a wide area of surrounding country. The reputation of the house is of the highest, and this fact indicates the honorable business policy which has been followed without the silghtest deviation. In the business Mr. Weidner is associated with his sons, who are progressive and capable young business men. The firm also buy and ship large quantities of poultry, wool, hay, clover seed, etc. Mr. Weidner owns his store building and a handsome brick residence in Kunkle, and his landed estate in the county now comprises two hundred and fifteen acres, including his original homestead, on which he laid the foundation for his pronounced success. In June, 1903, Mr. Weidner and his two sons organized a bank, under the State law, and they adopted the title of the Kunkle State Banking Company, under which incorporation was made and the banking business initiated. The bank has received a gratifying support and its officers are as follows: Philip Weidner, president; and George W. Weidner, cashier. Mr. Weidner is also a stockholder and director in the Kunkle Furniture Manufacturing Company. In politics he has been unfaltering in his allegiance to the Democracy, whose cause he has supported from the time of attaining his franchise. He was the first postmaster of Kunkle and retained this office for a period of eleven years, at the expiration of which he resigned in order to give his entire time to his business interests. He is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. A broad-minded, public-spirited man, no citizen of the community is held in higher esteem and none has achieved success by more worthy means. In 1866 Mr. Weidner was united in marriage to Miss Catherine E. Stiving, who was born in Richland county, a daughter of Philip and Leah (Dohm) Stiving, who came to Williams county in 1856, here passing the remainder of their lives, and both dying in 1888. Mr. Stiving was one of the representative farmers of the county and a citizen of worth and influence. Concerning the Stiving family proper data will be found on other pages of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Weidner have three children: George Washington, the eldest, was born in Madison township, this county, on the 2d of March, 1870, and was educated in the excellent public schools of the county. In 1891 he married Miss Maggie Connolly, of Madison township, and she died in 1892, leaving one child, Maggie. In August, 1894, he married a second time, his choice being Miss Jennie Greek, daughter of Joseph Greek, of Millcreek township, and they have one daughter, Audrey. He is a Democrat in politics, and is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has been associated with his father in the mercantile business since attaining his legal majority. Homer Frank Weidner was born in Kunkle, October 26, 1875, and received a good educational training in the public schools, while, like his brother, he was reared to the mercantile business, in which he is now associated with his father and brother. He also is a Democrat and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Laura Almeda Weidner was born in Kunkle, May 1, 1877, was given good educational advantages and is now the wife of John Holstien, a successful farmer of this county. They have two children—Evaline and Florence Kathleen.

LOUIS WEIGLE has one of the extensive and finely improved farms of Superior township and is one of those who are upholding the high prestige which has so long been enjoyed by the progressive and enterprising husbandmen of Williams county, which has been his home during the major portion of his life. He was born in Seneca county, O., on the 22d of April, 1860, and is a son of George and Rosanna (Winter) Weigle. George Weigle was born in the kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, on the 17th of November, 1821, and in the Fatherland he was reared and educated, while he there served a three years' apprenticeship at the trade of carpenter, becoming a skilled workman. His father died in Germany, and in 1846, accompanied by his widowed mother, he came to America and located in Seneca county, O., where he followed his trade until 1861, when he came to Williams county and purchased a tract of land in Superior township, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising, developing one of the valuable farms of the county and ever retaining the implicit confidence and regard of the community, in which his influence was always exerted for good in the various material and social relations of life. He continued to reside on his homestead until about 1892, when he removed to Winfield, Kan., where he died in September, 1897, his devoted wife, to whom he was married April 2, 1850, having passed to the life eternal on the 20th of September, 1891. They became the parents of ten children, namely: Jacob, who married Mary Pennington and is engaged in farming in Cowley county, Kan.; Sophia, who is a resident of Winfield, Kan.; Louise, who is the wife of Jacob Beck of Montpelier, Williams county; George, who married Miss Alice Clark and is engaged in the hardware business in Pewoma, Mich.; Louis, who is the immediate subject of this review; John, who married Miss Lura Crawford and is engaged in farming in this county; William F., who married Miss Sadie Stephenson and is now a resident of Cowley county, Kan.; Rosanna, who resides in Winfield, Kan.; and Gustave and Rosella, who are deceased. Louis Weigle received a good public school education in Superior township, being reared on the farm and continuing to attend school at intervals until he had attained the age of twenty-one years. Thereafter he worked at the carpenter trade about two years, then passed about four years in the west, visiting various states and territories. He returned to Williams county in 1886 and located upon his present farm, where he has ever since maintained his home, successfully engaged in diversified agriculture and stock-growing. His farm comprises three hundred and five acres and the greater portion of it is available for cultivation, while the improvements and accessories are of the best order. Though essentially public-spirited and a stanch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, Mr. Weigle has never sought office. His wife is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both are popular in the community. March 30, 1886, Mr. Weigle was united in marriage to Miss Alice Griffith, daughter of Benjamin L. Griffith, a prominent farmer of Superior township, where she was reared and educated. Of this union have been born four children: Weir, in the Montpelier school; Grace, who died when two years old, the only daughter; Weldon, now attending school; and an infant who died unnamed.

GEORGE B. WEILAND is numbered among the prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Springfield township, and his success is the more gratifying to contemplate on the score that it stands as the diametrical result of his own efforts. He was born in Defiance county, O., July 29, 1864, and is a son of John G. and Sarah A. (Moon) Weiland, the former of whom was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and the latter in Defiance county, O., where their marriage was solemnized. John G. Weiland was a boy at the time of his parents' immigration to America, in 1831, the family settling in Erie county, N. Y., where he was reared to manhood, receiving fair educational advantages. He worked on the old Erie canal and also on the lakes in his youth, and finally removed to Tiffin township, Defiance county, O., where he secured eighty acres of wild land on which a small clearing had been made and a primitive log cabin constructed, this constituting his original home. He still resides on this homestead, which now comprises one hundred and sixty-eight acres, well improved and under high productivity. He was twice married, and to his first marriage were born six children, viz.: John, Emma, Sophia, Barbara, Lucinda, and Wesley. The children of the second union were six in number, all of whom are still living: Wesley is a farmer of Pulaski township; Eva is the wife of Bruce Figley and resides in Defiance county; Christopher resides in Binghamton, N. Y.; George B. is the subject of this sketch; Hattie married John Core and resides at Sherwood, O.; Cora, who is the wife of Charles Black, resides in Defiance county; and Fannie, the wife of Charles Moog, resides in the city of Bryan, Williams county. John G. Weiland is a Democrat in politics and has held various township and school offices. George B. Weiland was reared on the home farm and was afforded the advantages of the public schools of his native county, including the high school in the city of Defiance. He remained at home until he had attained his legal majority, having thereafter taught two terms of school in Defiance county, after which he clerked eight months in a hardware store at Ney, that county. He then went to Tonawanda, N. Y., and in that locality was employed at farm work one year, after which he returned to Defiance county. He there devoted his attention to farming for two years and then removed to Williams county, in 1893. He located in Springfield township, where he farmed on rented land for the ensuing seven years, at the expiration of which he purchased his present fine farm which comprises one hundred acres, and which has long been known as the Schaeffer farm. The place is all available for cultivation and is improved with good buildings. Mr. Weiland devotes himself to general farming and the raising of good grades of live stock, in such numbers as the exigencies of his other operations justify, and he is known as one of the energetic, progressive and reliable farmers and business men of this section, commanding uniform esteem in the community. In politics he is a Democrat, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Universalist church. December 24, 1891, Mr. Weiland wedded Miss Hattie Pumphrey, who was born in this county, July 22, 1872, being a daughter of Curtis and Sarah (Benner) Pumphrey, who came to this county from Licking county, O., in 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Weiland have no children.

JOSEPH A. WEITZ, A. M., M. D., a distinguished physician and surgeon of Montpelier, was born in St. Joseph township, Williams county, on November 30, 1849. He is the son of Adam and Elizabeth (Yeager) Weitz, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. His grandfather was Joseph Weitz, who lived and died in his native country. Adam Weitz, born in February, 1810, attended school, learned the weaver's trade and served the required six years in the German army. In 1837 he emigrated to the United States, locating first in Portage county, O., where he worked on the canal then in process of construction, attended school one winter in order to acquire some knowledge of the English language, and then learned the stone-cutter's trade. His ability as a workman and his energetic and temperate habits soon gained for him the position of foreman of the works, a position which he filled with credit to himself and profit to his employers for a period of twenty-four years. In 1839 he was wedded to Elizabeth, the daughter of John Yeager, a native of Butler county, Pa. To these parents there were born the following children: Daniel, a resident of Indiana; John Andrew, who was killed in 1864; Harriet, the wife of John Casebeer of Indiana; Lovina, now Mrs. Isaiah M. White of Montpelier; Lucina, the widow of T. J. Stoops of Edgerton, O.; Joseph A.; Wesley, who resides at Edgerton; Thomas, who resides in the West; George, of California; William A., who died at the age of seven; and Frances, the widow of Charles F. Grisier of West Unity. In 1846 Adam Weitz removed to Williams county, and purchasing a farm in St. Joseph township, made his permanent home there. He was a Democrat until the birth of the Republican party, when he cast his lot with that organization, and was a stanch and active Republican the rest of his life. Though reared a

Catholic in religious belief, he in later life became a Protestant, and at the time of his death was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife. Adam Weitz died in December, 1890, his wife having died seven years earlier.

Joseph A. Weitz, the third son of Adam Weitz, grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the district schools, the Butler, Ind., high school and Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich., from which institution he graduated with the class of 1876. Prior to attending college he taught three winters in the country schools. After graduating he resumed teaching as superintendent of the Edgerton public schools, following this by three years' service as superintendent of the Sylvania schools. He holds a teacher's life certificate for Ohio, being one of the first men in this part of the state to receive one. After graduating from the medical department of the University of Michigan, in 1886, the Doctor came to Montpelier and bought a drug store here, studied pharmacy at home and passed successfully the examinations required of a registered pharmacist. Two years later he sold his drug store and gave his entire time to the practice of medicine, which he has ever since followed. From 1894 to 1897 he filled the chair of Pathology in the Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery at Detroit, and from 1897 to 1899 that of Neurology in the same institution. While in charge of the professorship of Neurology he made his home in Detroit. Then he returned to Montpelier and resumed his practice. Beginning with 1893, he served four years in the capacity of surgeon of the Wabash Railway Company. Many meritorious articles have been contributed by him to the Reference Hand-book of Medical Science and various medical journals. Dr. Weitz is ex-president of the Northern Tri-State Medical Association, secretary of the Williams County Medical Society, member of the American Medical Association, member of the Ohio State Medical Association, and Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine. In the Masonic and Pythian orders he also takes a deep interest. The Doctor chose as his helpmeet in life's journey Miss Helen Fay, a native of Hillsdale county, Mich., the daughter of M. W. Fay. To this union one daughter has been born, Florence M., a student at Oberlin College, in the class of 1907.

JOHN M. WELKER, a prominent and highly respected citizen of Bryan, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, on January 26, 1833, and was reared and educated there. At the age of eighteen years, impelled by the energy and desire to do things which have characterized a long and honorable life, he went to Massillon, O., where he entered the employ of G. & P. Welker. Subsequently he engaged with Humberger, Oberlin & Co., remaining with that firm three years. In 1854 he removed to Williams county, and since that time he has been prominently identified with the commercial interests of this section of the State. His first employment here was with Col. William Stough, long a prominent figure in the affairs of Williams county, who at that time was conducting a general store at the village of Pulaski. At the expiration of one year he became a partner in the business, the firm name being Stough & Welker. In the spring of 1856 the establishment was removed to Bryan. A few months after this removal the storm clouds of the panic of 1857 appeared, and the firm of Stough & Welker, as was true of scores of others, succumbed to the inevitable and was forced to close its doors. The stock of goods was purchased by George W. Myers who placed Mr. Welker in charge. In August, 1860, Mr. Welker and Jacob Howe purchased the business of Mr. Myers and conducted it under the firm name of Howe & Co. until 1865. The firm was then dissolved and Mr. Welker engaged in growing cotton in Tennessee, maintaining his home, however, in Bryan, where his family remained. As this venture did not prove profitable, he returned to Bryan the following year and accepted a position as a traveling salesman for a wholesale dry-goods house in Chicago. After working in this capacity for one year he embarked in the general merchandise business at Bryan with Andrew W. Killits, the father of John M. Killits, common pleas judge. The business proved very profitable and was continued until 1878, when the stock was divided. In 1874 Mr. Welker established a cheese factory in Bryan and later a creamery was added to it. The output of the combined concern was 140,000 pounds a year. He also owned a cheese factory at Edon and an interest in one at Edgerton. In 1878 Mr. Killitts withdrew from the partnership and was succeeded by Oscar L. Dales, a son-in-law of Mr. Welker, the firm name being Welker, Dales & Co. After a year Mr. Dales withdrew and Mr. Welker conducted the business alone until 1885, when a partnership was formed with I. E. Gardner. In 1892 Mr. Gardner was succeeded by George M., the eldest son of Mr. Welker. This firm still exists and the establishment is readily acknowledged to be the largest dry-goods house in the county. In addition to the business interests mentioned Mr. Welker has been identified with other important enterprises, all tending to the upbuilding of Bryan and Williams county. He was one of the organizers of the Union Trust and Savings Bank of Bryan and for a long time a director of the Farmers' National Bank of the same place. For years he has been one of the most extensive wool-buyers in Northwestern Ohio, handling annually more than a million pounds. With his characteristic method of mastering every detail of any business in which he is engaged, he has made an exhaustive study of all branches of the wool industry from the growing of the sheep to the final consumption of the wool. In this way he became a recognized authority upon the subject. When the wool tariff was a burning political question his advice was frequently sought by members of Congress, and his arguments were quoted in the halls of the national legislature and on the political hustings. Mr. Welker has contributed to the press many instructive articles on this vital subject. Although taking such a deep interest in a great political issue, and giving of his talent, time and money to promote the success of the party that has always championed protection, yet Mr. Welker has never sought political preferment. His interest in politics has been that of a good citizen and the positions that he has held have come to him unsolicited.

The social side of life has not been neglected by him, notwithstanding the fact that his time has been given so strenuously to business. In June, 1855, he was made a Mason in Collins Lodge of Bryan, and he is now in point of membership the oldest Mason in Williams county, Collins Lodge having been succeeded by Fountain City Lodge, No. 215. He belongs to Defiance, O., Commandery, Knights Templar, and to Cleveland Consistory, Scottish Rite Masons. In 1856 he was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Myers, eldest daughter of George W. Myers, one of the earliest settlers and most prominent citizens of Williams county. To this union five children have been born. They are: Emma R., the wife of Oscar L. Dales, now a practicing physician of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Alice M., deceased, who was the wife of E. T. Binns, a prominent merchant of Bryan; Julia Louise, the wife of Reuben L. Starr, a leading member of the Bryan bar; George M., who is associated with his father in business and who married Miss Minnie Haine; John J., a prominent dentist of Toledo, O., who married Miss Grace Boothman, a daughter of the late ex-Congressman Boothman. Thus in a brief way has been given the record of an active, enterprising man of affairs, an excellent type of that class to which not only Williams county but also the State of Ohio owes its position in the business world today. Although Mr. Welker has passed the allotted "three score years and ten" he is still active and vigorous and in the full enjoyment of excellent health, the priceless reward of an industrious life and abstemious habits. Such a life record is not alone of value to his immediate family and friends, but the American youth can see in it the possibilities of our citizenship, and draw from it inspiration that cannot fail to be a help to them in their individual careers.

HARRY WISNER WERTZ, M. D., a well-known and successful physician of Montpelier, is a native of Williams county, having been born in Superior township on January 6, 1869. His parents are Henry and Alice (Lambertson) Wertz. Aside from the few years that he resided in Bryan, O., he grew to manhood on the parental farm, receiving his education in the country schools and the graded schools of Bryan and Montpelier. The first work that he did after quitting school was to teach for two years in the Williams county schools. In 1887 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Blair Hagerty of Montpelier, and later attended the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, from which institution he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1890. After a brief practice of four months at Edon, the Doctor removed to Montpelier, where he has since practiced with unusual success. In 1896 he received the nomination for the office of coroner of Williams county by the Democratic party and was triumphantly elected, serving with marked success for two years. In addition to his general practice he is acting as examiner of various life insurance companies. In the work of the organization of the Modern Woodmen of the World and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows the Doctor has since his majority taken a deep interest. In 1891 he was wedded to Miss Mary Waterston, the daughter of James

Waterston, a prominent citizen of the county. To this marriage one son, Selwyn, has been born. The Doctor is a wide-awake, progressive young man, and is meeting with the best of success in his rapidly growing practice.

JOHN DEMERIT WERTZ, a prominent and highly successful dealer in agricultural implements at Montpelier, was born in Bryan, Pulaski township, Williams county, on August 29, 1866. He is the son of Henry and Alice (Lambertson) Wertz. His parents resided in Bryan until John D. was eleven years old, when they removed to the Lambertson farm in Superior township, the property of Japtha Lambertson. Here John D. Wertz grew to manhood, working diligently on the farm and attending the district school, his education being the best that the schools of that day afforded. In 1901, when he was thirty-five years old, he came to Montpelier and embarked in the agricultural implement business, in which by fair-dealing and indefatigable effort he has built up an extensive and profitable trade, a trade not limited to the immediate neighborhood, but extending to all parts of the county. What he possesses in the shape of worldly goods he has made himself, at no time having received the aid of influential friends. He understands his business thoroughly and richly deserves the success that he has won. The only organization with which Mr. Wertz is identified is that of the Knights of Pythias, in which he takes a deep interest. His choice for a helpmeet in life's journey was Miss Edith Lash, a native of Florence township, and the daughter of James and Julia Lash.

OSCAR B. WERTZ, a progressive and prominent farmer, is a native of Center township, Williams county, O., where he was born May 30, 1859. He is the son of John P. and Margaret (Grindle) Wertz, the former born in Germany, in 1822, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. John P. Wertz emigrated to the United States when only fifteen years old and stopped, first in Seneca county, O., whence he removed to Williams county in 1850, locating on and clearing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Center township. His first wife having died, January 2, 1872, he married Mrs. Treny Cotterman in 1873, who died, January 1, 1882. He received his education in Germany, was a Democrat in politics, having held the offices of school director and supervisor, and with his wife was a member of the German Brethren or Dunkard church. His death occurred January 8, 1892. He was the father of seven children, six sons and one daughter, all of whom are still living. The maternal grandparents of Oscar B. Wertz were Jacob and Margaret (Harbaugh) Grindle, both natives of Pennsylvania. Jacob Grindle first removed to Wayne county, O., in 1829, then to Wyandotte county, where both spent the remainder of their days. Oscar B. Wertz grew to manhood on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools of his native county, Bryan high school and the Fayette, O., normal. After quitting school he followed teaching during the winter and farmed during the summer for five years. Since then he has given his entire time to farming. On his farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres he follows general farming and dealing in live stock, including cattle and hogs. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest, and as a Republican has served as township clerk for four years. In 1903 he was appointed infirmary director for Williams county to serve the unexpired term of A. P. Warren, and one year later he was elected for a short term of one year to that important office. At the November election of 1905, he was chosen to succeed himself in that position for a full term of three years, receiving the flattering majority of 421 votes. Together with his wife he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. On January 25, 1885, he was wedded to Miss Margaret Amanda Weaver, born in Williams county March 17, 1860, the daughter of Samuel and Caroline (Harman) Weaver, who came to the United States from Germany when young and were married in Williams county, where they still reside. To them there have been born eight children, six of whom are still living. Oscar B. Wertz and wife are the parents of nine children, all of them living. They are: John Fearn, Dale Benson, Glen Weaver, Bonetha, Leta, Vale Forest, Bernice, Gertrude and Mayro Wesley. Samuel Weaver, the father of Mrs. Wertz, was born near Wooster, Wayne county, O., October 24, 1835. He is the son of Samuel and Mary (Stauffer) Weaver, the latter the daughter of John Stauffer, mentioned elsewhere in this work, both natives of Lancaster county, Pa., whence after their marriage they removed to Wayne county, O., in 1830. After a residence there of twenty-five years they came to Williams county, locating on a farm in Center township. He was a farmer by occupation, a Republican in politics and with his wife a member of the English Lutheran church. His wife died March 12, 1874, and he on April 29, 1877. They were the parents of six children, of whom only two are living. His paternal grandparents were John and Sarah Weaver, both natives of Pennsylvania, and both died in Wayne county, O. Samuel Weaver was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. In 1855 he came with his parents to Williams county, where he has since resided engaged in farming and selling fruit trees. He is a Republican in politics and has for a number of years served on the school board. In 1864 he enlisted in Company K of the Forty-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry and served until the close of the war, taking part in the battles of Bentonville, Ft. McAlister and Goldsboro. In June, 1856, he married Miss Caroline Harman, born in France, March 6, 1833, the daughter of George F. and Eva (Snyder) Harman, both natives of France who came to Stark county, O., about 1835, and twelve years later to Williams county, where both died, he in 1862 and his widow in 1864. To this couple five children were born, all of whom are living. To Samuel Weaver and wife eight children have been born. Their names follow: Hattie E., Rilla, who died when about two years old; Margaret A., Laura D., deceased, Ulysses S., Ida C., Mary A. and John Henry.

CHARLES M. WHITE, a retired business man and a highly respected citizen of Edon, is a native of Liverpool, England, where he was born on August 15, 1846. His parents, Charles and Marian

(White) White, are natives of Scotland, who emigrated to the United States in 1850, landing at New York city. Being an expert machinist, Charles White experienced no difficulty in securing profitable employment in New York and Brooklyn, where he remained for three years. From the American metropolis he removed to Detroit, Mich., and spent five years there. His next removal was to Angola, Ind., where he was employed for one year in the manufacture of sewing machines. Then he purchased a farm near Fremont, Ind., and followed general farming until 1863. In answer to his adopted country's call for troops he enlisted in Company M of the Fifth Indiana cavalry and served until the close of the war. Having been taken prisoner he was confined in the Confederate prison at Andersonville for nine months, when he was exchanged. After the close of the war he returned to Fremont, where he and his wife are still residing, he at the age of eighty-four and she at the age of eighty-two years. In politics he is a Republican and with his wife a member of the Congregational church. Eight children have been born to Charles White and wife, four of whom have grown to man and womanhood. David died at the age of eleven years at Detroit and the other three in infancy. Charles M. White was twelve years old when his parents moved on the farm on which he grew to manhood. He was educated in part in the Detroit city schools and finished at Orland Academy, Orland, Ind., after the close of the Civil war. In 1864 he enlisted in the same company of the Fifth Indiana cavalry in which his father had enlisted the year before and served until the close of the war. He too was taken prisoner by the Confederates and confined for nine months in the Andersonville military prison. At one time he succeeded in escaping from the prison pen, but he was re-captured, the pursuers having used blood-hounds. After the close of the war he went to Kansas and farmed there for a period of four years. Then he returned to Fremont, Ind., and in 1877 removed to Williams county, where he followed the occupation of farming for two years. Then he removed to Edon and worked at the carpenter trade for some time. After this he engaged in the cement business for several years, and followed that by dealing for a like period of time in the buying and selling of grain and in managing a grain elevator. Then until 1902 he conducted a cement and general building supplies establishment, when he retired from active business, having succeded so well in his various business ventures as to have acquired a snug little fortune. He is now building for his own use a substantial residence in Edon, where he owns other valuable realty. In politics he is an active Republican, having served both on the town council and the school board. He is an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and together with his family is a member of the Edon Church of Christ. In 1875 he was united in marriage to Miss Lovina Eyster, a daughter of William and Mary Eyster, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To Charles M. White and wife the following children have been born: Effie and a twin, the latter dying at birth, and the former at the age of eleven months; Edward, who died at the age of three months; William, educated at the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Ind., a teacher for a short time, and since

1901 a first-class Yeoman on the battleship Wisconsin of the United States navy; Ellsworth LeRoy, educated in the Edon high school and the Angola Normal is at present a teacher, but will later take the electrical engineering course at Armour Institute, Chicago; and Archie Lee, now a student in the Edon high school, who taught school before he was sixteen years of age.

JOHN B. WHITE, the present mayor of the city of Bryan, is one of the representative members of the bar of his native county, is a prominent factor in the ranks of the Republican party in this section of the State, and has a large and important professional business. He was born in Superior township, Williams county, Ohio, on the 21st of January, 1853, and is a son of Joseph H. and Rebecca F. (Leach) White. Joseph H. White was born in Bucks county, Pa., October 14, 1806, being a son of John White, who was a valiant soldier in the war of 1812. Joseph H. White was numbered among the sterling pioneers of Williams county and developed a valuable farm estate in Superior township, where both he and his wife died. He served as justice of the peace of Superior township from 1843 to 1846 and was one of the honored and influential citizens of that section of the county. John B. White passed his youth on the home farm, and after completing the work of the public schools finally entered the law department of the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1881, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and he was soon afterward admitted to practice before the supreme court of his native State. He began the practice of his profession in Montpelier, this county, where he remained several years, within which time he was called into service as mayor of the town, having previously served as township clerk of Superior township. In 1886, the demands of his practice and his increasing prestige in the ranks of his profession in the county led Mr. White to locate in Bryan, the county seat, and here he controls a practice of a representative order, being known as a skilled trial lawyer and able counselor. He has served eight years as mayor of Bryan, being the present incumbent of this chief executive office, and no further voucher of his able and acceptable administration of municipal affairs is needed than that afforded in his long tenure of the mayoralty. He has also been a valued member of the local board of education, and is essentially a liberal and public-spirited citizen. Mr. White is a stalwart in the camp of Ohio Republicans and has rendered efficient service in the party cause, being at the present time a member of the Republican State Executive Committee, and in the election of 1900 he was chosen Presidential elector as the representative of the Fifth congressional district of Ohio. He is identified with the local lodge and chapter of the Masonic fraternity, and also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. November 8, 1887, Mayor White was united in marriage to Mrs. Belle Sperry, daughter of James and Mary (McKibben) Brinkerhoff, of Ashland county, Ohio. They have no children.

JOHN WILDER, of Edgerton, Ohio, was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., April 9, 1851. His parents were John and Eliza (Reals) Wilder, the former a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, and the latter of Onondaga county, in the same State. In 1861 he came with his parents, John and Eliza (Reals) Wilder, to Farmer township, Defiance county, O., where they followed the occupation of farming with marked success. His grandfather was a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of the Empire State. John Wilder, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, was a man of influence in his section of the State, being a successful farmer and a progressive citizen. He married Miss Eliza Reals, a native of Fayetteville, New York. The children born to this marriage are John Wilder and an only sister, now Mrs. William Alexander of Farmer township, Defiance county, O. John Wilder, Sr., died at the homestead in Farmer township, Defiance county, at a ripe old age. John Wilder, Jr., grew to manhood on his father's farm and received the rudiments of an education in the public schools of his home county. For some years he was engaged in the saw-mill business. Five years ago he removed to Edgerton and entered the employ of the Oak Manufacturing Company, being assigned to the handle department of that concern. On the first day of last January, after five years' faithful service in subordinate positions, he was made foreman of his department, a well merited promotion. He is popular and well liked, not only by his employers but also by those who were subordinate to him. He understands his business thoroughly and is ever watchful of the best interests of his employers. The handles made by this company are of the best material and are shipped to all parts of the country. He married Miss Ollie Knight, the daughter of Ayres Knight, a prominent and successful mill-owner of Defiance county, Ohio. Four children, all of whom are still at home, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilder. They are: Roy, Myrtle, Millie and Lulu.

EMORY BENJAMIN WILLETT, the leading marble and granite dealer of Bryan, is a native of Fulton county, Ohio, where he was born June 28, 1858. He is the son of Joseph H. Willett. At the age of four years his parents brought him to Bryan, where he received a fair education in the public schools, and in 1878 he began working in the granite and tombstone business, serving one year, and then worked until January 1, 1884, at the trade of polishing marble. After that he formed a partnership with his father in the same line of work, continuing the business until 1899. On January 1, of the following year he went into business for himself, beginning the manufacture of monuments from the rough material, and today has the largest plant of the kind in the county. He employs on an average the year round eleven skilled mechanics. The granite is purchased in car-load lots, and is polished, lettered and finished right here in the factory. His office is next to the post office and the factory is on Lynn street. Since 1890 he has conducted a marble shop also at Hicksville, O. He is a director and the treasurer of the Bryan Telephone company, of which concern he was for a time solicitor, securing some of its first subscribers. In the work of the Knights of Pythias he is deeply interested, always having taken an active part, and although he has never held or sought a public office, he is nevertheless an enthusiastic Democrat. He was united in marriage to Miss Mildred H. Long, a native of Ohio, and the daughter of William H. Long.

CHARLES W. WISNER.—Among the farmers of Northwest township, who by dint of push and enterprise have met with an unusual degree of success in both general farming and stock-raising, may be mentioned Charles W. Wisner. He is the son of Samuel and Maria (Clume) Wisner, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. William Wisner was a blacksmith by trade and the owner of a highly improved farm, and the fact that he prosecuted both callings successfully proves that he was a man of considerable energy and thrift. Settling in Florence township in a very early day, when the land was wholly unimproved, he worked long and faithfully to make the homestead one of the most desirable farms in Williams county. In political views he affiliated with the Republican party, and in religious matters, together with his wife, he was identified with the Christian Union church. He died in 1877, and is survived by his widow, who still resides on the homestead. Of the four children born to William Wisner and wife, three are yet living. Charles W. Wisner was born in Steuben county, Ind., on August 16, 1865. He grew to manhood on the parental farm, assisting his father in its successful management, and the education that he received was the best that the public schools of that day afforded. The farm that he now owns and operates was purchased by him in 1902, and here he follows general farming and stock-raising. In politics he is a Democrat, being an earnest advocate of the principles of that party, but in no sense an office seeker. On March 1, 1888, he was wedded to Miss Susie Brubaker, a native of Florence township, the daughter of William Brubaker, an early settler of Williams county, who died during the Civil war. Of the four children that have been born to this union, Savel Dewey, the youngest, is deceased. Those living are Bernice, Elbert and Joseph.

HENRY M. WOODWORTH, owner of one of the fine farms of Jefferson township, is a native son of Williams county, a representative of one of its oldest and most honored families, is a veteran of the Civil war and is a citizen of worth and influence. Mr. Woodworth was born on the old homestead farm, in Millcreek township, this county, on the 9th of September, 1839, and is a son of Josiah and Maria (Snow) Woodworth, both of whom were born and reared in the State of New York, where their marriage was solemnized and where the father was engaged in farming until 1835, when he came as a pioneer to Williams county, Ohio, securing eighty acres of heavily timbered land in Millcreek township and receiving his deed to the property from the Government. The nearest neighbor was four miles distant and he found his initial task that of building his primitive log cabin, which had a floor of puncheons, and for some time blankets served in lieu of doors, for the construction of which no lumber could be secured. He cleared and improved his farm and lived on the homestead until his death, in 1847, being killed by a stroke of lightning. His widow later married George Bachman, and after his death became the wife of Thomas Ansley. She died in 1893 at a venerable age, having been a devoted member of the Baptist church. She was a typical pioneer woman, earnest, sincere and strong of character, and she held the unqualified regard of all who knew her. When she first visited the site of the present city of Toledo only one log cabin marked the location, and prior to coming to the West she saw the first railroad train which ran from Buffalo to Albany. By her first marriage she had nine children: Charles is engaged in the real-estate business in Des Moines, Iowa; Hannah, who was the first white child born in Millcreek township, became the wife of Oliver G. Smith and is now deceased; Ray is a farmer of Moscow, Idaho; Henry M. is the subject of this review; Ann E. is the wife of Robert N. Renshaw, of Spokane, Wash.; John E., who served three years during the Civil war as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, is now a large stock-grower of Ennis, Madison county, Montana; George, a prominent stockman of Wisdom, Beaverhead county, Mont., was formerly a member of the legislature of that state and has also served as a member of the board of commissioners of his county; James, who was a member of the Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was killed in battle at Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864; and Amanda is the wife of James Saunders, of Bryan, Ohio. By her second marriage, to George Bachman, the mother bore three children, the names of whom were: Sarah, who is deceased; Henry, who is a resident of Wauseon, Ohio; and Orcelia, who is the wife of Samuel Young and resides in Stryker, Ohio. No children were born of the third marriage. Henry M. Woodworth was reared under the influences and conditions of the pioneer epoch in Williams county, and early began to assume personal responsibilities and to do his share of hard work, while his educational advantages were limited to a very desultory attendance in the little log school house of the early days. When eight years of age he went to live in the home of his maternal uncle, Elijah Snow, a pioneer farmer of this county, and later he was employed four years on the Wabash canal. He then returned home and devoted his attention to farming up to the time of the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, when he was among the first to tender his services in defense of the Union. In April, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was organized in Millcreek township, and he received his honorable discharge in September following, having enlisted for a term of three months. In August, 1862, he re-enlisted, for three years, as a member of Company C, One Hundredth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained three weeks in the city of Toledo, and then accompanied his command to Covington, Ky., in which State it operated about one year, then crossing the Cumberland mountains to

Knoxville, Tenn., took part in the engagement at that point. Mr. Woodworth was there selected as a member of a detachment of three hundred men, sent from Knoxville to a distance of eighty-five miles on the line of the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, where they met the enemy in greatly superior numbers and were compelled to retreat and finally to surrender. Mr. Woodworth was held a prisoner at Belle Isle for six months, his exchange being effected in May, 1864, after which he rejoined his regiment and took part in the Atlanta campaign; and later he was in the battles of Franklin and Nashville and the engagements at Cape Fear river, Fort Fisher, and Wilmington, proceeding to Raleigh, N. C., in which State his command was on duty at the close of the war. He received his final discharge in Cleveland, Ohio, in June, 1865. He then returned to Millcreek township, where his young wife had lived during his absence as a soldier of the Republic, and took up work at the cooper trade and also turned his attention to farming, in which he continued until 1874. He then removed to Panora, Guthrie county, Iowa, where he was engaged in the general merchandise business for fifteen years, during the greater portion of which time he was also identified with agricultural pursuits, having been one of the pioneers of that county. He returned to Williams county in 1899, for the purpose of caring for his venerable mother, and he then purchased his present fine farm of eighty acres, in section 19, Jefferson township, where his beloved mother died on the 30th of January, 1904, at the age of 86 years. Mr. Woodworth is now living practically retired on his farm, the work of the same being carried forward by a reliable lessee. While a resident of Iowa he served three years as postmaster at Advance and for an equal period at Bagley, and for nine years he was an incumbent of the office of justice of the peace, and was also a school director in his county. Prior to his removal to the West he was trustee of Millcreek township, and later he held the same office in Jefferson township for two terms. Since his return to his native county he has again been called to the office of township trustee, of which he has been in tenure for the past five years. In political matters he has always been aligned as a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and in a fraternal way he is identified with Sunbeam Lodge, No. 476, Free & Accepted Masons, at Bagley, Iowa, having served as Master of the same, and also having been a member of the grand lodge of the order in the Hawkeye state. He is a member of the Independnt Order of Odd Fellows but not in active affiliation, and is a valued member of Hiram Louden Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in Montpelier, Williams county, Ohio. In September, 1861, Mr. Woodworth was united in marriage to Miss Susan M. Miller, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, being a daughter of Henry and Margaret R. (Bringman) Miller, both of whom were natives of York county, Pa. They came to Ohio in an early day and in 1858 removed to Williams county, settling in Millcreek township, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father was a weaver by trade but devoted himself principally to farming after coming to Ohio. Mrs. Woodworth was the only child.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodworth have three children. Ida M. is the wife of William E. McKee, a prosperous ranchman of Ennis, Madison county, Mont., and they have ten children: Carl, Guy, Verne, Della, Otto, Zora, Anna, Henry, and Harry and Chauncey, twins. Della is the wife of Grant L. Arrasmith, of Bayard, Iowa, and they have one child, Winfred W. Orville J. is at the present time on the ranch of his uncle in Beaverhead county, Mont.

WILLIAM MARTIN WRIGHT may properly be designated as one of the pioneer citizens of Williams county, as is evident when it is stated that he has resided on his present homestead farm for nearly sixty years, the place having been secured by his honored father in the early days, when this section was yet largely unreclaimed from the forest wilds. It is now one of the well improved farms of St. Joseph township, being attractively located on the river road leading north from the village of Edgerton. Mr. Wright was born in Ripley township, Huron county, Ohio, on the 12th of October, 1840, being the fourth in order of birth of the six children of Tobias Wright, and the maiden name of his mother was Susan Cook. The former was born at Salem, Washington county, N. Y., on the 14th of February, 1794, and the latter was born in Delaware county, same state, April 1, 1807. Tobias Wright was a son of Alexander and Rebecca (Kiker) Wright, the former of whom was born about the year 1768, and the latter on March 29, 1772. Alexander Wright was a son of Samuel and Sarah Wright, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, as was presumably his wife. Samuel Wright immigrated from Ballybay, county Monaghan, Ireland, to America about the year 1765, and made settlement at Salem, N. Y. He was driven from his farm during the occupation of that town by the British, but returned later, becoming a soldier in the Continental line and rendering yeoman service during the Revolution. He died in Salem, in 1830. His son Alexander passed his entire life in that locality, having been a farmer by vocation. Tobias Wright was reared to manhood in Washington county, N. Y., and there married Mary Lakin, after whose death, a few years later, he removed to Delaware county, that State, where was solemnized his marriage to Susan Cook, who was born in that county, as has already been noted in this context, and who was a daughter of Deacon Nathaniel and Rebecca Cook. About 1840 Tobias Wright came with his family to Ohio, locating in Huron county, where he remained until about 1845, when he removed farther west, to a farm in Indiana, only a few miles distant from the site of the present town of Edgerton, Williams county, Ohio. About 1847 he removed over into Williams county and took up his residence on the farm now owned and occupied by his son William M., whose name initiates this sketch. He improved this place and became one of the substantial farmers of the county, and his name ever stood as a synonym of honor and integrity in all the relations of life. He died on this homestead, April 17, 1866, his widow surviving him by more than a score of years, as her death occurred on the 22d of January, 1888. Alexander Wright, a brother of Tobias, came to Ohio at the same time, having married Orpha Cook, sister of the second wife of Tobias. The brothers settled in the same locality and each had a family of six children. Of the children of Tobias Wright all are living except the eldest, Alexander, who died in early youth, in Huron county, Ohio. David, born October 24, 1836, married Lydia Beverly and resides in Kansas; Charles Louis, born October 27, 1838, married Susannah Wideman, and resides in Hamilton, Indiana; William Martin, subject of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Tamar Rebecca, born May 29, 1843, is the wife of Oliver P. Learned, and they reside in Hamilton, Ind.; Tobias Alexander, born June 29, 1846, married Mary, daughter of Hon. James Gibson, of Salem, N. Y., and they reside in New York city; through him has been secured much of the data for the preparation of this ancestral review. Tobias Wright was a Democrat in his political views. William Martin Wright secured his educational training in the common schools of Dekalb county, Ind., and Williams county, Ohio, in which latter practically his entire life has been passed. He was reared to manhood on the old homestead farm which he now owns and occupies, and in his farming operations he has kept pace with the march of improvement, laying aside the more primitive accessories and methods as improved ones have been devised and utilizing judgment in his labors, so that he has found his enterprise profitable and grateful, having no reason to regret his continued application to the noble art of husbandry. His farm comprises sixty-three acres of excellent land, under a high state of cultivation and devoted to diversified agriculture and horticulture, and the improvements on the place are of a substantial and attractive order, making the old homestead a delightful rural estate. Mr. Wright has ever shown a proper interest in local affairs of a public nature and has been signally true to the duties of citizenship, and he exercises his franchise in support of the Democratic party and its principles. In the community which has been his home from his childhood days he has never lacked the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and he has served most acceptably in various local offices, including those of township assessor and trustee. He is liberal in his religious views, having a due appreciation for the true spiritual ideas aside from dogmatism, and his wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church. On November 20, 1866, Mr. Wright married Miss Amanda Sheridan, who was born in Williams county, Ohio, March 16, 1843, being a daughter of William and Hannah (McKims) Sheridan, the former of whom was born in Ireland, August 9, 1801, and the latter was born in Scotland, in April, 1803. William Sheridan came to America with his mother when he was a child of three years and they settled in Pittsburg, Pa., in which State he was reared to manhood, receiving a common-school education and learning the trade of a blacksmith. About 1838 he came to Ohio and settled on a farm one and one-half miles west of Bryan, Williams county, where he followed his trade and carried on agricultural pursuits, continuing a resident of this county until his death, which occurred August 28, 1889, his devoted wife having passed away October 18, 1876. Both were zealous members of the Presbyterian church, in which he served consecutively as deacon for more than a quarter of a century, and in politics he was a stalwart Democrat. Of the eleven children only two are living—Mrs. Wright, and Wallace S., the latter being a prominent contractor and builder of Springfield, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Wright became the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. William Sheridan, the oldest child, resides in Chicago, Ill., where he holds a lucrative position. Edgar T. is a traveling salesman from St. Louis, Mo., having previously passed four years with a leading concern in New York city; Susan H. is the wife of James Hissong of Shelby, Ohio; Archibald C. died November 7, 1901, aged twenty-six years, four months and twenty-two days; Mary Belle is the wife of Frederick Dimler of Bryan, Ohio.

GEORGE M. YEAGLEY, a prosperous farmer near Melbern, is the son of James K. P. and Mary Catharine (Gallatin) Yeagley and the grandson of Andrew and Catharine Yeagley, both natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Williams county about the year 1852 and there spent the remainder of their lives. His maternal grandparents, John and Lydia (Saul) Gallatin, were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former being born September 10, 1818, and the latter August 24, 1819. The parents of John Gallatin, Jacob and Elizabeth (Buttler) Gallatin, removed from their native State to Stark county, O., September 13, 1840, where both died. John Gallatin was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county. In 1852 he removed to Williams county and located on a farm where he spent the remainder of his days. In politics he was affiliated with the Democratic party, being an earnest advocate of the principles of that organization. To John Gallatin and wife four children were born. They are: Daniel B., a resident of Washington, D. C.; Silas Saul, deceased; Mary Catharine, the mother of the subject of this sketch, and Willie H., deceased. John Gallatin died April 15, 1895. His widow, who still lives on the homestead, is the daughter of John and Catherine (Asper) Saul, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Williams county in 1854, where both died. Here follow the names of the children of John and Catherine Saul: Eliza, born March 18. 1814; George B., born September 10, 1815; John, born September 18, 1817; Lydia, born August 24, 1819; Sarah, born January 16 1822; David, born May 15, 1824; Catherine, born October 31, 1828. The first five were born in Pennsylvania and the last two in Stark county, O. George M. Yeagley is the son as stated above of James K. P. and Mary C. (Gallatin) Yeagley, both natives of Ohio. James K. P. Yeagley grew to manhood on a farm, receiving a liberal education in the common schools and in a select school in Williams Center. By occupation he is a farmer and in politics a Republican, and together with his wife a member of the United Brethren church. He is now a resident of Jasper county, Ind., his wife having died August 15, 1870. To their marriage three children were born: George M.; James C. of Nebraska, and the third child died in infancy. George M. Yeagley was born in Center township, June 6, 1866. Having lost his mother when four years old he was reared by his maternal grandparents, John Gallatin and wife. He received his education in the public schools of his home county and in the Fayette, O., Normal. By occupation he is a successful farmer, owning one hundred and forty acres of very fertile and valuable land, and in politics is an independent. On December 24, 1889, he was wedded to Miss Jennie Fisher, the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Poorman) Fisher, a farmer of Center township, where he has resided for sixty-three years. To Mr. Yeagley and wife three children have been born. They are: Carrie Grace, born January 17, 1892; Clarence Herbert, born December 5, 1894, and Florence Carmon, born June 11, 1899.

ANDREW D. YOCUM.—From the old Keystone State came many of the leading pioneer families of Ohio, and a representative of this sturdy element is Mr. Yocum, who is one of the well-to-do and honored farmers of Madison township, where he has passed essentially his entire life, his memory linking the early pioneer era with the present time, as the twentieth century rolls majestically into the cycle of the ages. Mr. Yocum was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 10th of January, 1850, and is a son of Lemuel and Elizabeth (Martin) Yocum, the former of whom was born in Wayne county, this State, January 9, 1824, and the latter was born in Bedford county, Pa., August 26, 1823, being a daughter of Dan Martin, who removed from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, in an early day. Lemuel Yocum was a son of Andrew Yocum, a native of Pennsylvania, from which State he accompanied his father to Wayne county, Ohio, in the early pioneer days, and there they operated a tannery for a number of years. On the 9th of August, 1853, Lemuel Yocum and his family arrived in Madison township, Williams county, settling on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he reclaimed from the primitive wilds. He later purchased one hundred and thirty acres of land, comprising the present homestead of his son Andrew, subject of this review, three acres of the place having been sold for use as the site of the school house of the district. This farm was cleared by Dr. George Lawson, from whom Mr. Yocum purchased the property. He made good improvements on the place and resided at the time of his death, on the farm he located on in 1853. His death occurred April 30, 1899, while his widow was summoned to the "land of the leal" February 12, 1905. Both were sincere and faithful members of the German Baptist church, and in political matters he was a stanch supporter of the Democratic party and its principles. Of the four children of this honored pioneer couple only two are living, Andrew D. and Nancy Ellen, the latter being now the wife of Jacob W. Stiving, a prosperous farmer of Madison township. Andrew D. Yocum was reared on the homestead farm and has contributed his quota to its reclamation and improvement, and the place is doubly valuable to him by reason of the fact that it has been his home from his childhood and also the home of his honored parents from the pioneer days to the time of their death. He gives his attention to diversified farming and the raising of high-grade live stock and is one of the able and popular representatives of the agricultural element in the county, the sturdy husbandry on whose efforts must ever rest much of the stable prosperity of the nation. In politics Mr. Yocum is independent in his attitude, supporting men and measures which meet the approval of his judgment. March 23, 1882, he was united in marriage to Miss Cordelia A. Gordon, who was born in Hillsdale county, Mich., being a daughter of Cyrus and Sarah (Coddington) Gordon, who were early settlers of that county, whence they came to Williams county in 1862, passing the closing years of their lives in the village of Pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. Yocum have one son, Earl G., who attended the high school at Pioneer and who is associated with his father in the operation of the home farm.

HARVEY GEORGE YOUNG, M. D., who is engaged in the practice of his profession in the village of Pioneer, where he has various capitalistic interests of importance, is recognized as one of the able physicians and surgeons of the younger generation in Williams county, and he follows the same profession as did his honored father, who was one of the most distinguished representatives of the Homeopathic school of practice in this section of the State. Dr. Harvey G. Young was born in the village of Pioneer, this county, on Christmas day of the year 1871, and is a son of George and Mary Ann (Miller) Young, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in Richland county, Ohio. Dr. George Young received his elementary education in his fatherland, having been twelve years of age at the time of his parents' immigration to America. They located first in Richland county, Ohio, and later came to Williams county, locating in Florence township, where both passed the remainder of their lives. Dr. George Young was not only educated largely through his own efforts, but he also gained marked financial success through his discriminating operations and honorable methods. He was graduated in the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College, having previously been a careful and ambitious student of his profession under private preceptors. He was an assistant surgeon in an Ohio regiment for three years during the Civil war, soon after the close of which he came to Williams county, having been previously engaged in the practice of his profession with his preceptor, at Shiloh, Richland county. Upon coming to Williams county he took up his residence in Pioneer, where he continued in active practice for many years, becoming one of the most honored and most successful physicans of the county, as well as one of the county's wealthiest and most influential citizens. For many years he was an extensive loaner of money, was one of the organizers of the Pioneer Banking Company, in 1894, and owned at different times a large amount of valuable real estate, besides having other important capitalistic investments in the county. In earlier years he supported the Democratic party, but he espoused the cause of the Republican party soon after its organization and thereafter was one of its stalwart adherents. Dr. George Young died Feb. 15, 1903. He was a man of lofty integrity of character and ever commanded the respect and confidence of all who knew him. In a fraternal way he was identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife became the parents of three children: Arthur F. is engaged in the drug business at Stryker, this county; Minnie is the wife of Alfred E. Quidort, a hardware merchant of Pioneer; and Harvey G., of this review, is the youngest. The junior Dr. Young was reared in his native town, having been graduated in the Pioneer high school as a member of the class of 1889, after which he was a student for one year in the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware. He then entered the Homeopathic medical department of the famous University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he completed the prescribed course and was graduated as a member of the class of 1893, receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. He forthwith established himself in the practice of his profession in Pioneer, where most gratifying success has attended his efforts and where he has attained to exceptional prestige as an advanced exponent of modern medicine and surgery. He has taken post-graduate courses in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College and special courses in orificial surgery and electro-therapeutics, in Chicago, besides special courses in refraction and diseases of the eye, in the Detroit Medical College. The Doctor is a member of the Ohio Homeopathic Medical Association, the American Institute of Homeopathy and the North American Association of Orificial Surgeons, and he is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and in political matters he maintains an independent attitude. He is a stockholder of the Pioneer Banking Company, the Pioneer Elevator Company and the Pioneer Telephone Company, of which last he is president. He is the owner of one of the finest residences in the town and the same is a center of generous and gracious hospitality. Animated by a genuine public spirit, Dr. Young is well upholding the prestige of the honored name which he bears, both in his functions as a citizen and as a physician. August 6, 1901, Dr. Young was married to Miss Bertha R. Hall, who was born and reared in Pioneer, being a daughter of Thomas B. Hall, a well-known citizen of this place, and the one child of this union is Kathleen Mary.

FREDERICK YUNCK, manager of the Bryan Novelty Manufacturing Company and chief of the fire department of that city, is of foreign birth, being a native of Alsace, Germany, where he was born on November 10, 1849. His parents were Philip and Barbara (Milliman) Yunck, both natives of Alsace. In 1853 the Yunck family, consisting of the parents and two sons, emigrated to America, landing at New York City, whence they came directly to Massillon, Stark county, O., where Mrs. Yunck had three sisters living. Philip Yunck secured work on a farm about three miles north of Massillon and continued there about a year and a half. Then he removed to the neighborhood of Uniontown, Stark county, where he remained a like period of time. In April, 1857, he removed to Williams county and bought a farm four miles west of Bryan. In 1870 he sold this farm and, moving to Bryan, purchased twenty acres of land adjoining the corporation line of the city. He continued to cultivate this piece of land until his death, in the spring of 1887, his widow surviving him one year. He was a Democrat in politics and with his wife a member of the German Lutheran church. Philip, the elder son, nine years older than Frederick, is now engaged in the sheep-raising industry in Montana, but maintains his residence at Bryan. Frederick Yunck was reared on a farm and received a common school education. In 1869 he left the farm and coming to Bryan engaged in the mercantile business which he conducted successfully for twenty years. In 1889 he sold out his business and embarked in the clothing business, continuing in that line for a year and a half. In 1897 he organized the Bryan Novelty Manufacturing Company and was made manager of the business, in which capacity he is still serving. The product of this firm consists principally of store tools and display tables. From eight to ten mechanics are employed the year around. Mr. Yunck has served as treasurer of Pulaski township, and is identified with the Odd Fellows and Royal Arcanum organizations. On April 2, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Goller, born near New Liverpool, Medina county, Ohio, the daughter of George Goller, who came to Williams county in 1856, locating on a farm five miles south of Bryan. To Mr. and Mrs. Yunck there have been born three children. Their names are: Edward G., an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Toledo, O.; Charles F., secretary of the Bryan Novelty Manufacturing Company, and Frederick, who died when a year and a half old.

JACOB ZEEB, a prominent and successful merchant of Edgerton, is of German descent, his father having come to America when only twelve years old. The parents of Jacob Zeeb are George and Christina (Keinath) Zeeb, both of foreign birth. George Zeeb was born in Kusterding, Wurtemburg, Germany, in 1840. When the Civil war broke out he patriotically enlisted in the Sixty-fifth Indiana volunteer infantry and saw very active service. Two years after his return from the war, in 1867, he removed to Edon, Williams county, where he embarked in the furniture business. In public affairs he has been quite active, having practically filled all of the town offices. He and his estimable wife are still living at Edon, being highly respected by all who know them. They have had five children: George, the proprietor of a general store at Edon; Louise, now Mrs. L. W. Burkhart; Tina Christina, Mrs. William Lingle, and Mary who is still at home. All are residents of Edon. Jacob Zeeb was born July 4, 1870, in Edon, where he grew to manhood, receiving a fair education in the home schools. He began his business career by clerking for six years in a general store in Edon. Then in 1890 he removed to Edgerton, where for the next four years he held a clerkship in the establishment of F. W. Arnds. For the past ten years he has conducted a grocery and crockery store of his own, meeting with the most pronounced success. He married Miss Grace Relyea, of Edgerton, the daughter of Jerome and Rachel (Skelton) Relyea, the former of whom was run over and killed by a fast passenger train in 1901. Without the assistance of influential friends and with very little money, Mr. Zeeb has step-by-step risen from the humble position of clerk in a village store to that of proprietor of a large and lucrative business. In dealing with his fellow citizens he has always been scrupulously honest, and he has demonstrated that a business can be successfully conducted by an honest man. He is a man of pleasing manners, cheerful disposition, and possesses the tact of winning friends and keeping them. While Mr. Zeeb has always been a very busy man he has found time to devote to public affairs, having served two terms as township treasurer. He is a Democrat in politics but not an office seeker in any sense of the term.

JOHN H. ZEITER, who is proprietor of a prosperous livery and transfer business in Montpelier, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, on the 20th of June, 1862, and is a representative of the third generation of the family in America, whither his grandfather, George Zeiter, immigrated from Germany, accompanied by his wife and their one son. He became a successful farmer in Crawford county, Ohio, where he continued to reside until 1864, when he came to Williams county and purchased a farm near Montpelier, and here he was engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his exceptionally long and useful life. He died in 1895, at the patriarchal age of ninety-seven years, while his wife survived him, her life being prolonged to a still more notable age, since she only lacked three months of being one hundred years old at the time of her death, which occurred in 1901. Their only son, John, was born in Germany and was a child at the time of their immigration to the United States. He received his educational training in the schools of Crawford county, and came with his parents to Williams county, becoming one of the representative farmers of Superior township, and having been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for fifty-seven years, while for a number of years he also operated a threshing machine in this section, where he was well known and highly honored. He continued his residence in Superior township until 1902, and is now living retired near Reading, Hillsdale county, Michigan, which adjoins Williams county on the north, and he has passed the age of four score years. He married Miss Julia Swope, who was born in Pennsylvania, and she died in 1890, at the age of fifty-seven years. She was a devout and consistent member of the German Lutheran church and was a woman of noble and gentle character. Her husband is also a member of the same church, and in politics he has been aligned with the Democracy from the time of attaining the franchise. They became the parents of eight children, concerning whom the following brief record is incorporated: George is a resident of Reading, Mich.; Elizabeth is the widow of George Burkhardt and resides in Montpelier; William also makes his home in the same town; John H. is the subject of this review; Charles resides in the West; David is engaged in the real-estate business in the city of Toledo; Edward is engaged in business in North Baltimore, Wood county; and Albert is with his father in Reading. John H. Zeiter was about two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Williams county, where he was reared and educated, in the meanwhile lending his aid in the work of the home farm. After leaving school he continued to be engaged in farm work for a short time, thereafter operated a threshing machine one year, after which he came to Montpelier and entered the employ of Adam Lattanner, in the livery business. About three years later he effected the purchase of the business, which he has successfully continued, having well equipped stables and doing a general livery and transfer business. He is a Democrat in his political proclivities and is loyal to the party cause at all times. In 1884 he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Olinger, of Defiance county, Ohio.

JACOB ZIGLER is properly represented in this work by reason of his status as one of the successful farmers and worthy citizens of Jefferson township. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, on the 15th of October, 1858, and is a son of Reuben and Catherine (Samsel) Zigler, the former of whom was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., of stanch German lineage, and the latter was born in Germany. Benjamin Zigler, father of Reuben, removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Richland county, Ohio, in an early day, and later they came to Williams county and settled in Center township, where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. Reuben Zigler was reared to manhood in Richland county, where his marriage was solemnized. His wife was a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Dick) Samsel, who came from Germany to America when she was a child, settling in Richland county, where the father worked at his trade, that of a weaver, and also became a prosperous farmer, both he and his wife continuing to reside in that county until their death. In 1865 Reuben Zigler came with his family to Williams county, and he secured sixty-five acres of land in Jefferson township, developing a good farm and continuing to here make his home until he was called to his final reward, in November, 1896, in the fullness of years and well earned honors. He was a Democrat in his political adherency and was a consistent member of the English Lutheran church, as is also his widow, who still resides on the old homestead. They became the parents of eight children, of whom four attained maturity, namely: Mary, who is the wife of Elwood A. Piper, of Chadbourn, N. C.; Ella, who is the wife of Samuel A. Steyers, of Jefferson township; Jacob, whose name initiates this sketch; and Cora, who died in February, 1903, having been the wife of Jay Wineland, of Jefferson township. Jacob Zigler received a good education in the public schools and continued to live at the parental home until he had reached the age of twenty-two years, when he was married. In 1883 he located at Waldron, Hillsdale county, Mich., where he devoted his attention principally to teaming for the ensuing two years, at the expiration of which he returned to Williams county, Ohio, locating in Superior township, where he was engaged in farming for the following seven years. He then, in the spring of 1896, purchased and removed to his present farm, which comprises forty acres of land in section 7, Jefferson township, all being under effective cultivation. He has remodeled the house on the place and erected a large and substantial barn, and is meeting with success in his efforts, giving his attention to general farming and stock-growing. He is a stanch adherent of the Democratic party and both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, as was also his first wife. February 3, 1881, Mr. Zigler was united in marriage to Miss Anna Steyers, who was born in Jefferson township, having been a daughter of the late George Steyers, a substantial farmer of this county, to which he came from Pennsylvania. Mrs. Zigler died on the 21st of November, 1900, and is survived by three sons, Meril J., who married Josephine Kirk and is engaged in farming in Richland county; William D., who is a carpenter by trade and vocation, resides in Chicago Junction, Ohio; and L. C. remains with his father on the home farm. On Christmas day, 1901, Mr. Zigler married Miss Emma Zouvers, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, being a daughter of Caleb and Amanda Zouvers, the former of whom was born in Shelby county and the latter in Holmes county, Ohio. Mr. Zouvers died December 25, 1898, and his widow now resides in Sandusky, Ohio.

WILLIAM ZIGLER, a prosperous farmer of Center township, is a native of Trumbell county, Ohio, where he was born on March 29, 1836. His paternal and maternal grandparents lived and died in Pennsylvania. He is the son of Benjamin and Catherine (Libey) Zigler, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married and whence they came to Trumbull county, O., about the year 1830. Later they removed to the vicinity of Mansfield, Richland county, and finally, in 1862, to Williams county, where they located on a farm of eighty acres two miles east of the farm on which William Zigler now resides. In politics he was a Democrat and with his wife a member of the Lutheran church. He died at Miller's Corners in 1890, his wife having died seven years earlier on the home farm. They were the parents of eleven children, ten sons and one daughter, of whom five sons are yet living. William Zigler grew to manhood on his father's farm and received a very limited education in the common schools, which he afterwards supplemented by self culture. On May 27, 1859, he was wedded to Miss Elizabeth Rinehart, born in Ashland county, O., in 1838. the daughter of Fred and Catherine (Steele) Rinehart, residents of Richland county, where both are buried. In 1861 William Zigler, wife and one son came to Williams county and settled in a perfect wilderness, where he cleared sixty of the first eighty acres bought by him. To this tract he later added forty acres and in 1903 sixty-seven acres more, making a total of one hundred and eighty-seven acres in the farm. He has been very successful in general farming as well as in breeding Short-horn and Polled-Durham cattle and Shropshire and Oxforddown sheep. Although a stanch Democrat he has never aspired to public office. In religous matters he is identified with the Evangelical Association. Mrs. Zigler has had the benefit of a thorough education and is a highly cultured and refined Christian woman. Seven children were born to them: John, Mary, Presly, Annie, Berton, Eddie and Jesse.

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